The Identity of contemporary society : Return of Utopia

A Thesis

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Master of Architecture

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By

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This is a futuristic, anti-heroic and p r o - c o n s u m e r i s t architectural dialog. My understanding of architecture is solely expressed through hypothetical project in this thesis in an attempt to reveal the reality of living through the lens of technology. I'm attempting to address the generation I belong to that freaks out when the Internet goes off and lives in a world without boundaries through the platform of the Internet. Reality of living in 2017 might be interesting and horrifying at the same time, this thesis tried not to fail both sides, as the power of addressing them both was the drive of this thesis research.

To those who inspired it and will not read it .

Category : Visionary Architecture + New Aesthetics Graphics

Inspired By : Archigram. Martin Heidegger. Rem Koolhaas.

Thank you : Mama Amina Baba Abdulmoniem for believing in me.

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:// Chapter A

Intro.

Today, how many of us depend on our smart devices to wake up, Siri and Google which can answer all your questions and the GPS knows where you are going and takes you to your destination through the shortest route? It is impossible to know an exact number but it's fairly a large amount of people.

The image of depending on a robot to tell you what to do was nothing more than a utopic vision back in the 20th century. The Archigram legacy was one of those movements that took place in the 1960's describing a utopic moving city that was passionate about the freedom from attachments to a piece of land or people and encouraged removing the idea architecture as a fixed building instead just carrying anything the person needs in a bag and keep moving around as long as the people of the city are free to, and gradually shape a moving city.Archigram's vision did not convert to reality but delivered new design objectives and approach that we still learn from. I agree that Archigram is still a far utopic vision, but I am arguing that now, in our time, we are much closer to that vision than any time before, and we need their philosophy of freedom from attachments in our time more than ever.In this paper, my thesis celebrates our achievements in technology for taking us this far.

Today we are returning to Archigram's utopia and the image of architecture breaking from rigid to free forms, as technology is developing by the minute in our time.

Architects, however, through history made themselves efficient and built their theories of architectural studies upon responding to nothing else but the emerging of the era's technologies,the social needs and politics. Le Corbusier is an example of one of the leading architects of modern architecture, him and a number of celebrated architects who decided to embrace the era's emerging issues that was mainly the ethics and the aesthetes of the machine, formed eventually a social life depending on that machine and somehow looks like a machine too. Contradictory to classical architecture, modern architects came with a strong vision and a revolutionary movement that they thought should promise a better living. For many that time modernism was only a vision, a perfect utopic land that failed to succeed in the examples and proposals of le Corbusier, dreams that are almost impossible and far from reality.

Years later these dreams came to light to not only prove that it works, but to actually shape the modern identity, living and modern societies. Some critiques argued that these utopic visions delivered a capitalism image which was not a great idea, some argued that it is propagandized and does not actually respond to all society's needs, but bottom line we all and they all agree to the fact that it ended the era of classical-man and shaped the outline of the modern identity.

I believe that we should learn from their utopic visions, not by continuing to fulfill the modernist dreams that maybe outdated to the formation of our lives now, but the lesson we can take is to empower the ethics and aesthetics of our emerging technology and the new identity that is being formed behind all that, we should as architects simply embrace it.

If you asked me who am I targeting by this thesis and who are my audience, I would say probably everyone who has a smart device, a laptop and a screen that they somehow use on a daily basis,everyone that gets worried whenever their phones get lost and their internet turns off.I am designing a visionary city that reflects the life of our contemporary societies.

Return of Utopia

Recent architectural exhibitions and lectures for example the exhibition that was organized in February-May 2008 by the Canadian Centre for Architecture: Utopia's Ghost: Postmodernism Reconsidered" has been discussing that utopia is returning to favor, and we in our time need it the most. Perhaps not only for assessing social alternatives, but the promises it holds for a more generic cities and the enriching of the link between architecture and the popular culture that our generation is looking for today. Instead architecture should stop pursuing old dreams of modernity that has ruled for decades. When architecture can it should pause and learn the lessons from utopia as our generation needs it the most.1

The link between utopia and social reforms was solely a historical interest, and although utopic writings referred to utopia as a present event or an existing reality, the word utopia actually meant no-where. The origins of the word utopia came from the writings of the English social philosopher Thomas More back in 1516, as he came up with this word referring to a remote island where strange formations of societies existed and lived ideally. Referring to the essay the real utopia, essays in politics of the nineteenth century by activist and historian Michèle Riot-Sarcey, suggests utopia was conceived at the time of the Renaissance and continued to be hidden through history.

However it was hidden in the writings of Foucault and Walter Benjamin which aimed to evoke renewal and breaking out of the original or the typical way of thinking about solving emerging issues and approach it in a different perspective. Riot-Sarcey also wrote that “Utopia is not "elsewhere" but criticism of the present in its production, and especially his reception, as originally another political mode, opens a gap, a clear requirement in the recognition of the human right to freedom , breaks the "liberal monopoly of the concept of freedom." It is "posture" more than content, that is, an "elsewhere" which is actually involved in the construction of history, and therefore a present that is. Therefore political in the best sense of the term”2.Michèle Riot-Sarcey writings was the fine line between the mystery of utopia and reality of it as her writings break down the concept and explain the importance of the utopia not only lies behind the context that it is explaining and aiming for, but it also reveals some current state of mind in society and what are their dreams for a better reality.

Utopia has been associated with mainly social movements that was targeting new social forms,foundations and management such as Saint-Simonianism, Fourierism or Owenism they used to refer to it as utopian socialism.3 Although utopia was recalling for social reforms, the link between utopia and architecture was drawn in the writings of Italian historian Manfredo Tafuri in his essay “Architecture and Utopia”.
In Tafuri’s essay utopia is discussed as a new city and urban orders and visualizing a new city that is serving capitalism and directing the society formation, the link between architecture and utopian socialism reveals the importance of the relation between the image and the practice which empowers the social impact of architecture.4

Architecture in our time has been effective by being directed mostly to solve and react to economics and the need for affordable houses, more green building materials, responding to real estate laws, but what I think architecture is missing is the fact that it is a tool that has an ability to ultimately empower the image of the society. Architecture can simplify, exaggerate, abstract and clarify a perfect story of the era, and able to draw the outlines of the identity of our contemporary societies. The dream-like dimension that utopic architecture holds cannot be less important than solving economy issues, as reflecting social formation is an important aspect that architecture should and could be the tool for too. Utopic architecture can be critiqued to interrupt existing social orders and architectural approaches that is trending and more effective, but I think redefining a sharp image that can speak better to the public that is about “hope” and hope for a better story of our lives is a massage that only architecture can carry and develop. Details of the ideal streets, the ideal urban orders and houses that was discussed by Thomas More is a great example for addressing architecture as a vital tool for social change and reforms, and do we in our time need utopia the most?

1 Let us mention for instance the exhibition "Utopia's Ghost: Postmodernism Reconsidered" organized in February-May 2008 bythe Canadian Centre for Architecture, or Felicity Scott's book Architecture or Techno-Utopia: Politics after Modernism (Cambridge,Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2007).
2 Translated from French, Monique Boireau-Rusty, "Michèle Riot-Sarcey, the real utopia. Essay on politics in the nineteenth century, Paris, Albin Michel, 1998 309 p. "History Review of the nineteenth century, 19 | 1999, 147-151.
3 Picon, Antoine. 2013. Learning from utopia: contemporary architecture and the quest for political and social relevance. Journal of Architectural Education 67, no.1: 17-23.
4 Tafuri, Manfredo. Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1976.

One cannot underestimate the power of utopia, not for the fact that change makers like the philosopher, economist, sociologist, journalist, and revolutionary socialist Karl Marx has been mainly influenced by the utopian writings of the philosopher Condorcet, but also for the powerful massage that it holds and capable of universal transformation which can be applied anywhere in the world. It would be tough to find a building after WWII that hasn't been majorly influenced by Le Corbusier's machine of living. It went well beyond its generation because it manifested the best elements of the era all under one utopic vision that is giving something accessible and familiar to anyone who's using it.

Modernism, in general got accepted globally and been renamed in some writing to international styles, Modernism did not address the need of housing only but the need for a modern housing and need of embracing the trends of the era which was the aesthetics of the machine in one big image that is reflecting the society, the machine and the politics.

Megastructure and utopian visions was of an interest for the contemporary architect and theorist Rem Koolhaas, who tried to tie architecture to the trends of our time and wrote in that matter saying "In order to cope with the prevailing conditions of the "generic city", architecture had to abandon its pretensions to change the world in a demiurgic manner."[5] Rem Koolhaas attempted to take utopia from being a sterile concept to the concept that can convert to reality and provoke renewal and a strong tool to question the architecture of our time. Through his work Koolhaas addresses that reawakening utopia, today, should not be ultimately about sustainability and recent emergencies but it should help to serve the link between digital imaginary to reality TO create a strong relation between the image and the reality and question how the image should be realized and perceived, which lead him eventually to the question of the media.[6] Media of course is inseparable in importance of making the utopic vision come to reality, and that was proven in history, as media was implied and played a big role in recognition of the Archigram legacy.[7] However linking the digital, media and the contemporary society in one image under architecture could possibly be utopic but the most accurate vision of the era and could be addressed under the return of the utopian socialism of Saint-Simonians and Fourierists.

The unfinished writing of Walter Benjamin nineteenth-century Paris, did focus on demonstrating that capitalism had a mythical dimension, and the utopic socialism was a good expression of that mythical dimensions that permeate to the emerging social reforms on the eve of the industrial revolution.[8]

5 Rem Koolhaas, "The Generic City," in S, M, L, XL (New York: The Monacelli Press, 1996).
6 On the influence of Radical architecture on Koolhaas or Tschumi, see for instance Dominique Rouillard, "Radical" Architettura", in Tschumi une Architecture en Projet: Le Fresnoy (Paris: Editions du Centre Georges Pompidou, 1993),
7 On Archigram and Radical architecture, see for instance Archigram (Paris: Editions du Centre Georges Pompidou,1994); Dominique Rouillard, Superarchitecture: Le Futur de l'Architecture 1950-1970 (Paris: Editions de La Villette,2004).
8 Picon, Antoine. 2003. Utopian socialism and social science. In Cambridge history of science. Volume 7. The modern social sciences, ed. Th.M. Porter, D. Ross, 71-82. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Contemporary Society

Even though technology is becoming a regular part of our lives, I only came to recognize it when I heard my friend saying “I saw a guy in Starbucks today with no phone no laptop, he just sat there drinking coffee like a psychopath”. I was not surprised instead his comment made perfect sense and he indirectly gave a strong statement of what life is all about in our time, as technology and smart devices are essentials for living a normal life. The essayist Pico Iyer described the differences between our generation and the past generation in his TED talk saying “When my grandparent were born, they almost had their sense of home, their sense of community, even their sense of enmity, assigned to them at birth, and nowadays, at least, some of us can choose our sense of home, create our sense of community, fashion our sense of self, and in doing so maybe step a little beyond some of the black and white divisions of our grandparents' age.”9 Although he was describing a minor differences in the lifestyle between his grandparent’s age and our age now, it shows the big differences in personal values that is reformed a gap in culture. We do not have same dreams, destinations and desires with past generations.

Most importantly, though, in this age of mass media, we have to be very aware and critical of the distinction between culture and propaganda, between a community of people and a mass of individuals.Culture is a dynamic value system measured at the scale of generations of which a community of people is a generative medium.Culture is cultivated through intimate and spontaneous social interactions by the individuals in the community and manifested in a cultural media which characterized the identity of a place. Essentially, many people in communion with one another as one entity knowing what they want and how they collectively identify produces a cultural expression. However, Propaganda is also a dynamic value system measured at the scale of whatever turned around the time its technological medium is capable of, for architecture it maybe years for TV months or days and the internet hours and minutes. Propaganda qualities are determined by whatever individual's control and influence social media so that the process is reversed. If this individual was a modern developer, for example, he might propagate his own idea about what the architecture of a place should be and, while the people living there are free to express their opinions about the architecture propagandized, they have little to influence over its outcome.

Med twentieth century French philosopher and sociologist Jacques Ellul in his book Propaganda: the formation of men’s attitude wrote “when individuals are not held together by local structures, the only form in which they can live together is in an unstructured mass society”10.

Liberated from a community, in other words, the individual is directly exposed to integration into society, psychologically overwhelmed and subsequently becomes an eager beneficiary of propaganda. Propaganda is also intended to be provocative and superficial. The problem, writes Jacques Ellul, is to create an irrational response on the basis of rational and factual elements.

“Then, the facts, the data, the reasoning – all are forgotten, and only the impression remains.”11 Alternatively, you have a mass of individuals without a collective identity facing the entire society each on his own sorting through answers that propaganda makes radically available. If you live in such a social context, you will be used to hearing “I have my opinion, and you have your opinion, I live in the way that I want, you live in the way that you want” That is what defines the society of people who live together as a mass of individuals and not a community, and they are arguably to be the basics of our contemporary societies that will stay for the coming generations.

9 Pico Iyer. (2013, July). Pico Iyer: Where is home?
10 Ellul, Jacques. Propaganda; the Formation of Men's Attitudes. New York: Knopf, 1965
11 Ellul, Jacques. Propaganda; the Formation of Men's Attitudes. New York: Knopf, 1965

Case Study

THE EDGE office building:

What interests me in this case study, not the technical solution that the building is offering, but the image the building is reflecting upon the use of technology that has formed a new freedom of form, and they took the use of this place to another level of user's experience. The edge is an office building that was designed by PLP Architecture Company built in The Zuidas, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The edge has an area of 40000.0 sqm and was constructed in 2015. As the design was creates an inspirational business environment for the workers,according to Bloomberg, it's the smartest building ever constructed.12 Bloomberg reported "This building connects to you at the moment you wake up, it knows your schedule and the people your meeting with today, it knows how much sugar you take on your coffee, where you live and what car do you drive" Your day at this building will start with a smartphone app, this app is your passport in this building it connects to you and recognizes your car when you arrive and takes you to a parking lot, and shapes entire environment for the day.13 This building is an office space that fits you conveniently and is aiming to elevate the experience of working environment. At this building, as a mean of creating more intellectual and innovative working space that encourages new relations and chance interactions, you don't have an office space, and actually no one does, instead this building can find you the perfect spot according to your schedule, your mood, your preferable room temperature and the tasks you are planning to accomplish by the end of the day. Workspaces varies from sitting desk, standing desk, work booth, meeting room, balcony seat, or "concentration room." Whichever fits your tasks of the day, it also tweaks the lighting and the temperature of your place to your convenience.14 It is not only the smartest building in the world, but also the greenest. According to British rating agency BREEAM, this building has received the highest sustainability score ever awarded: 98.4 percent, as it has a number of solar panels that produces energy more than the building uses, that covers the daily activities inside the building from lighting to the electric bikes and cars parking charging station that people mostly use in the building. This building tells you to exercise daily, why? Because it wants to recharge your energy and the building's energy too.



Bloomberg reported "The on-site gym encourages employees to break for a midday workout. Flash your phone at the check-in station and the gym's app automatically tracks your progress. Some of the exercise stations will actually harness the energy from your workout, sending hard-earned watts back to the grid—as if you didn't already feel like a hamster in a wheel" 15

Information Technology proved in this building that it can shape your space and knows what you want more than any architect. What makes this building futuristic, that it broke out of the use of physical materials, technical and construction solutions in creating spaces, and instead It created to the best use of humans and the environment depending on what people depends on their daily bases, their smart phone. More importantly for architects and real estate developers ,It introduces a more efficient use of space in how a number of approximately 2400 employees in the building share a desk space of a 1000 employee conveniently, through the strategy that they called a hot desking, this strategy was developed depending on studying the employees performance and,their daily tasks, accordingly the results were that most of the tasks the employees does mainly, needs a lounge space, small booths and fairly a small number of office desks.This strategy,significantly increased the satisfaction of employees and production, and created a healthier and more social working environment in how breaking people from rigid places would break the rigidity of thinking as well.16 "We think we can be the Uber of buildings," says Coen van Oostrom, chief executive officer of OVG Real Estate, the building's developer. "We connect them, we make them more efficient, and in the end we will actually need fewer buildings in the world." 17

12 Tom Randall (2015.September 25).The smartest building in the world: Inside the connected future of architecture, from Bloomberg Businessweek.
13 Tom Randall (2015.September 25).The smartest building in the world: Inside the connected future of architecture, from Bloomberg Businessweek.
14 Tom Randall (2015.September 25).The smartest building in the world: Inside the connected future of architecture, from Bloomberg Businessweek.
15 Tom Randall (2015.September 25).The smartest building in the world: Inside the connected future of architecture, from Bloomberg Businessweek.
16 Tom Randall (2015.September 25).The smartest building in the world: Inside the connected future of architecture, from Bloomberg Businessweek.
17 Tom Randall (2015.September 25).The smartest building in the world: Inside the connected future of architecture, from Bloomberg Businessweek.

Digital age Utopia

Utopia has the dimension that can communicate architecture to public and digital media is representing the obvious route, linking the image to reality can empower the link between architecture and social and recalls the need for a contemporary architecture that reflects the life of our generations. This thesis is looking at designing a visionary city by adding the transformations in existing cities that needs it and is recalling for a new rules of urbanism that can respond to the contemporary societies.

This thesis is trying to put urban orders that fits better with the new contemporary societies, and reflect the city image in a more expressive way to the society, and that is through applying transformations to the rules of the planning of the city.

The following chapter will show case the design process.

:// Chapter B

Thesis Design Process



Rania Karamallah

Photo by: *Haus-Rucker-Co's Designs*
Title: *Architectural Utopia Reloaded*
Edited by: *Rania Karamallah*

Thesis Design Process

Stage 01 : Manifesto //

01. The invention of the Internet succeeded to affect the formation of our lives. Globlization was one result of that. Cities with strong identities will soon disappear due to that phenomena.

02. The new machine of the era is the Internet not the car anymore.

03. Generic cities will demolish the separation that static cities developed, instead a flixable identity which does not belong to a specific location, religion or race will dominate.

04. The digital realm, free from physical constrains, allows for unlimited possibilities of expressions and transformation.

Stage 02 : Disapperance of urban planning //

I have a vision that urban planning will disappear as a discipline in the far future, because a city with identity is not what we need, a city with identity is too static, fixed and inflexible.

“Paris can only become more Parisian, it is already in its way to become hyper Paris, a polished caricature. There are exceptions : London it’s only identity a lake of clear identity, it’s perpetually becoming even less London, more open less static”
– Rem Koolhaas

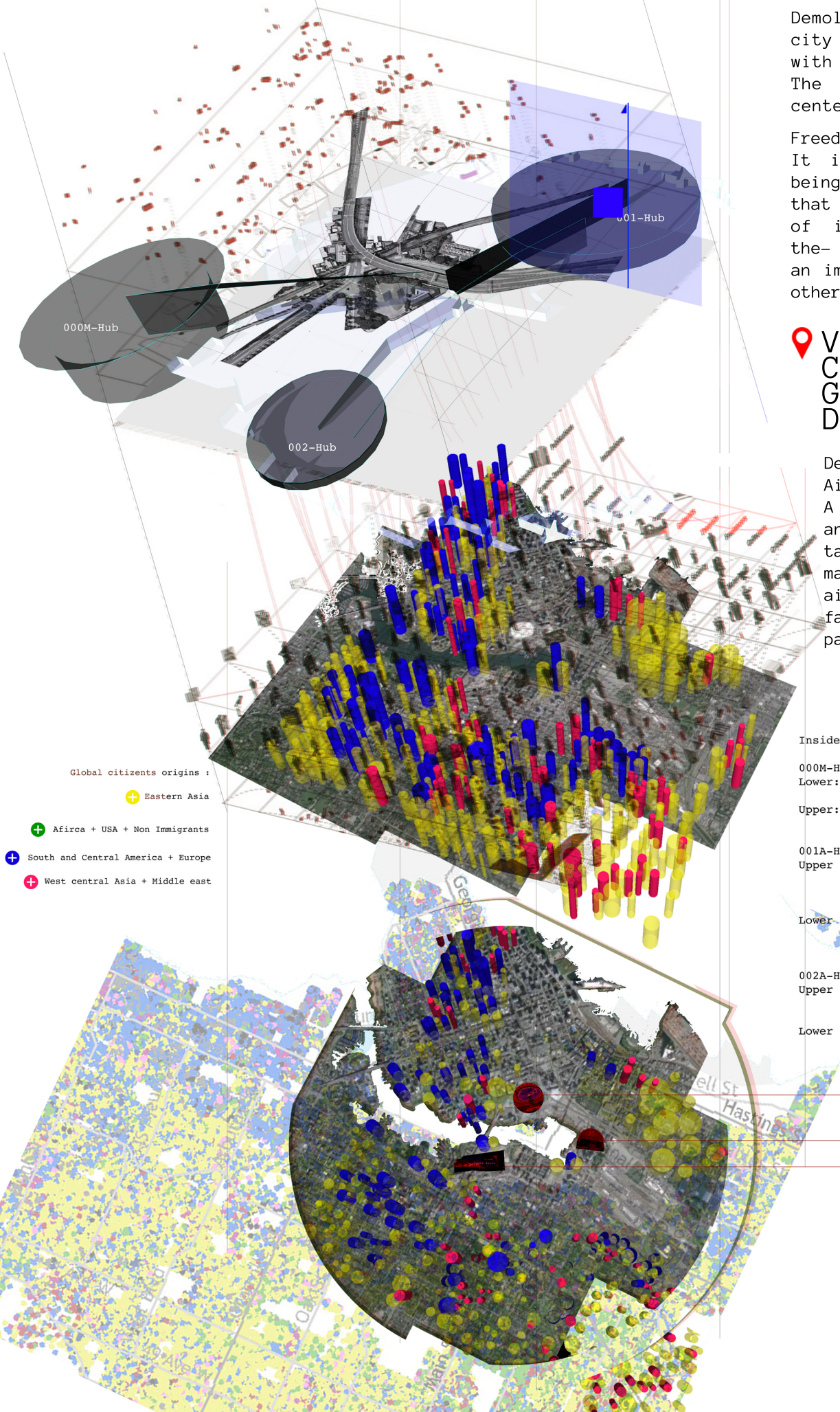
://The influence of globalization and the Internet physicality of the digital age, is a cultural revolution that will transform the way we design our cities.

Demolishing the static city and replacing it with a generic city. The AirHub is the center of the new city.

Freedom of dwelling : // It is a statement of being of every human that in the structures of its:// Being -in- the- world :// one finds an implicit refrence to other humans .

Vancouver Canada : Globlization Diagram

Definition of the AirHub : A complex of runways and buildings for the takeoff, landing and maintenance of civil aircrafts with facilities for passengers.



Inside :

000M-Hub//Area:640000m2//Top:+156.00m
Lower: Maintenance
Factory
Upper: Storage
Shipping

001A-Hub//Area:577600m2//Top:+105.00m
Upper : Terminal
Security check rooms
Rest / Hotel Rooms
Loops
Lower : Market
Plaza

002A-Hub//Area:200704m2//Top:+89.00m
Upper : Tower
Run-way
Airplanes
Lower : Event Place

Cultural Clustors :

BC Place,1983
multi-purpose stadium

Science World at Telus World of Science, Vancouver,1977
science centre

Edgewater Casino,2011
Downtown Vancouver's only casino

Stage 03 : Unfolding //

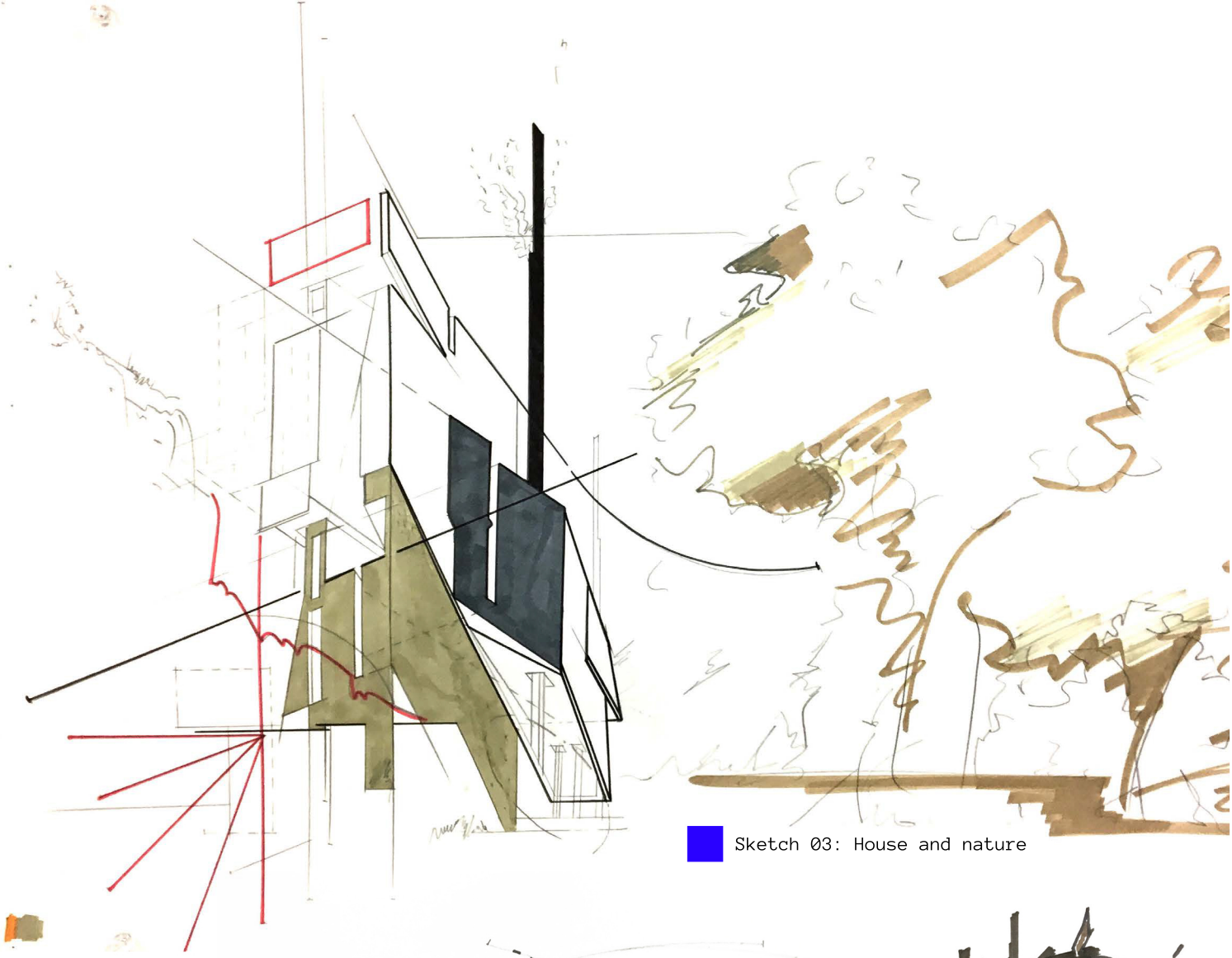
Series of hand sketches brainstorming the idea of breaking out of the norms of architecture. The sketches combine the idea of rigid architecture getting unfolded physically and emotionally.



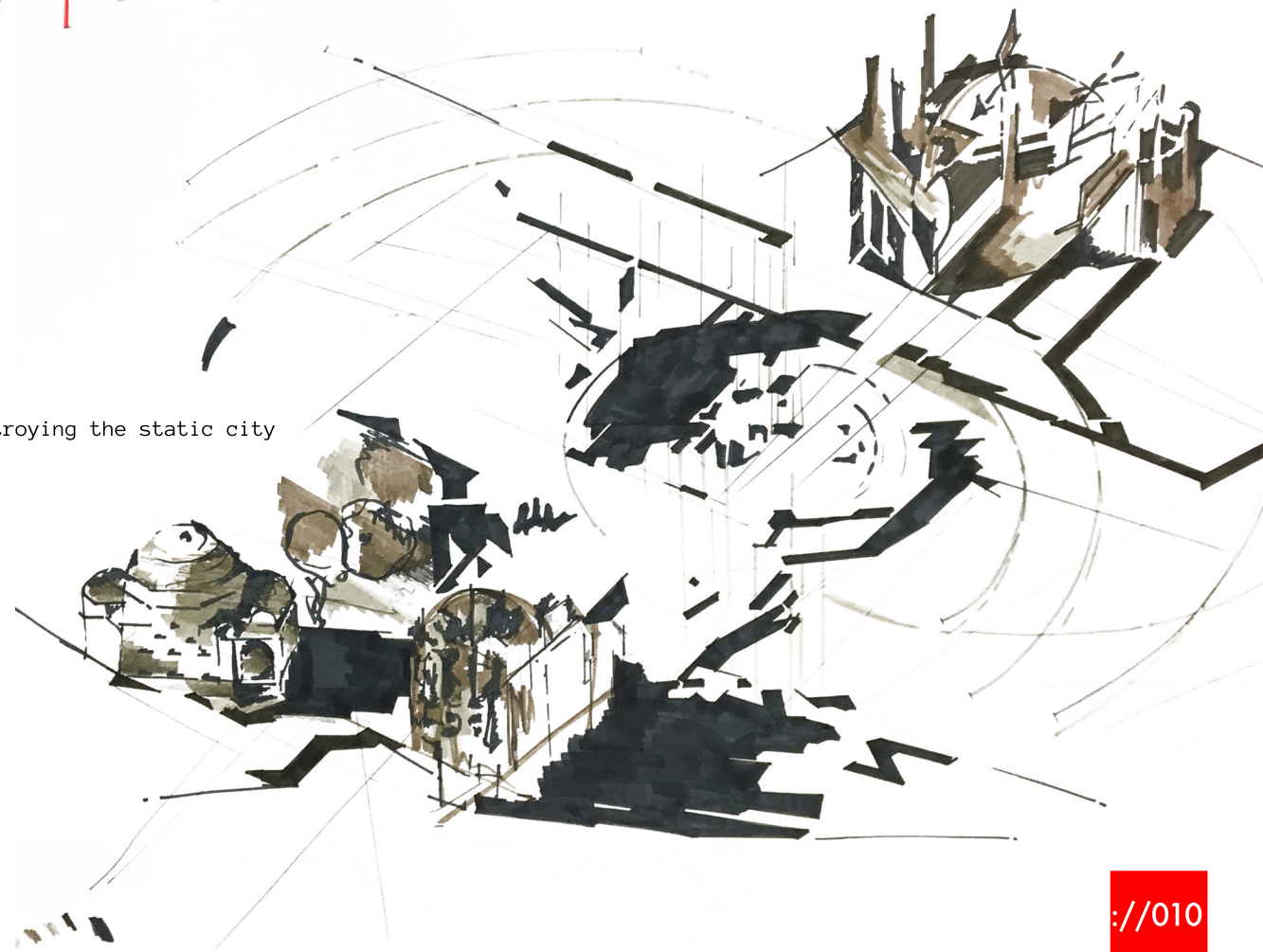
Sketch 01: Breaking



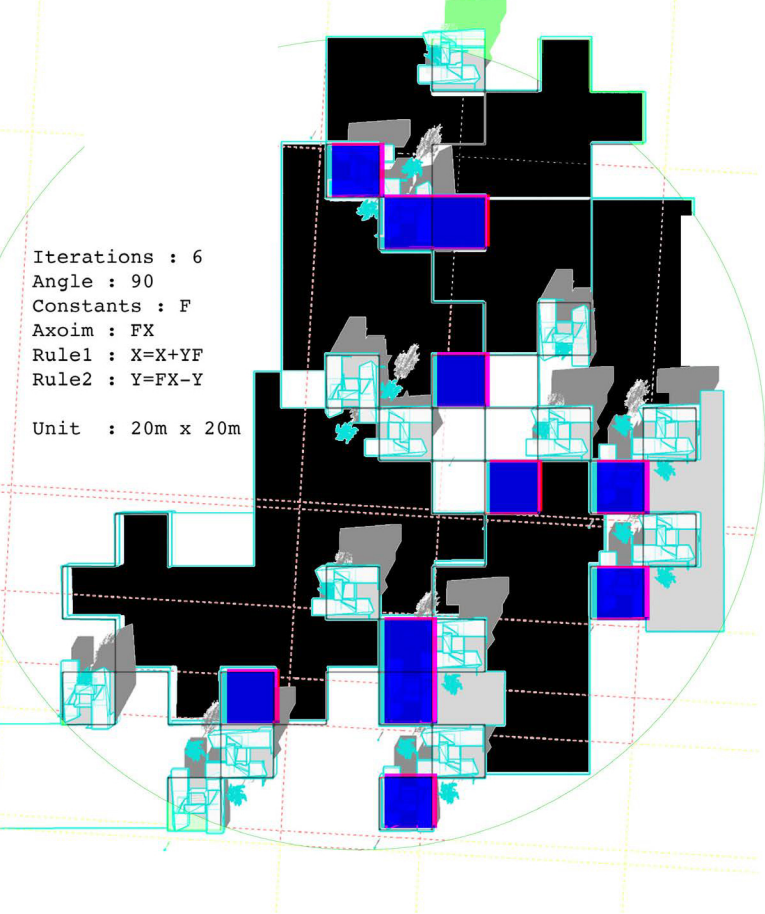
Sketch 02 : Floating and ungrounded



Sketch 03: House and nature



Sketch 04: Distroying the static city



Stage 04 : City Components //

01. The AirHub; an interactive downtown where citizents can connect locally and globally to the world through physical and electrical places.

02. The House; a place where a family live.

03. The Nature; increasing the green space in the city which allows more human connection to nature and it accordingly decreases the human footpring on earth.

04. The Factory; which is the government that rules the city, it is an AI system that collects data from citizents to build the perfect situation and city enviroment.

Stage 05 : Designing a Home //

What If we are not rooted to a piece of land, we enjoy the possibilities the virtual world is offering to us ,How can architecture address us? Our houses should look a little bit different, visually and functionally.

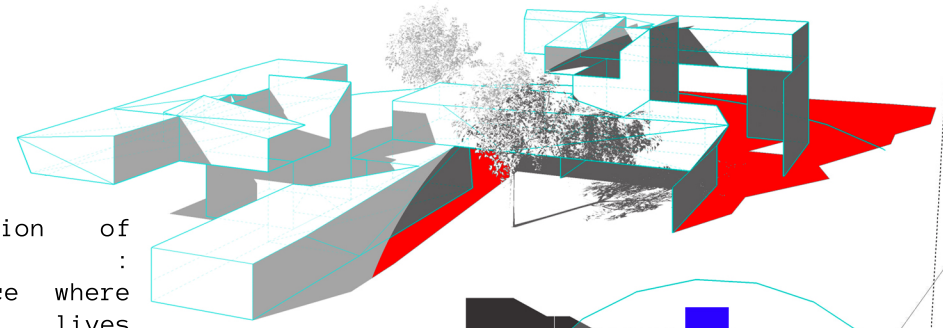
The house contains three main parts:

01. Static places; 3 Bedrooms+ 2Bathrooms + 1 Kitchen + 2living rooms + 2 Stores

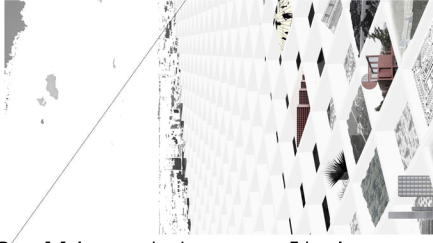
02. Generic places; Virtual room

03. Moving Places - Pod; a flying machine that connects to the airhub, replaces the car in connectivty instead it communicates poeple in more than the surroundig limited physical place.

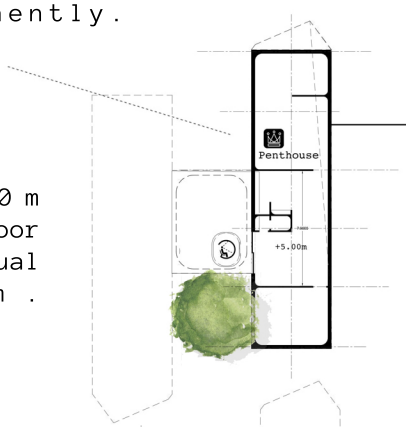
//The follwoing graphics shows the house Internet physicality : Spacial hierarchy of the digital house.



Definition of Home : A place where one lives permanently.



Dwelling at home : It is a statement :// being-with:// when someone is at the moment in spatial proximity to one or more other individuals, other species of nature and objects hat has consciousness beholding.



+5.00m Top floor : visual room.

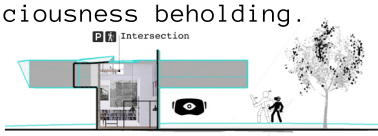


Inside:
Main level :
3 Bedrooms
3 Bathrooms
1 Kitchen
2 Living

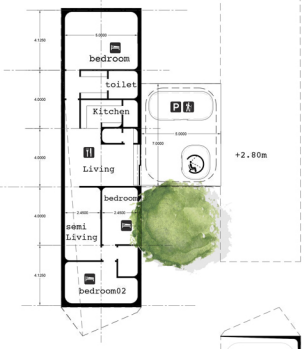
In Between :
Loop to public + semi-public level
Loop to penthouse

Penthouse :
2 Bathrooms
Open virtual space

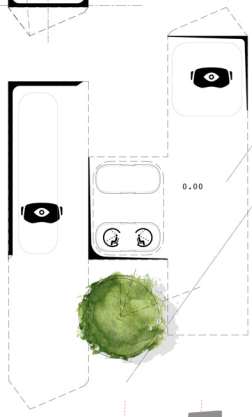
Lower level :
Open virtual space / cafe



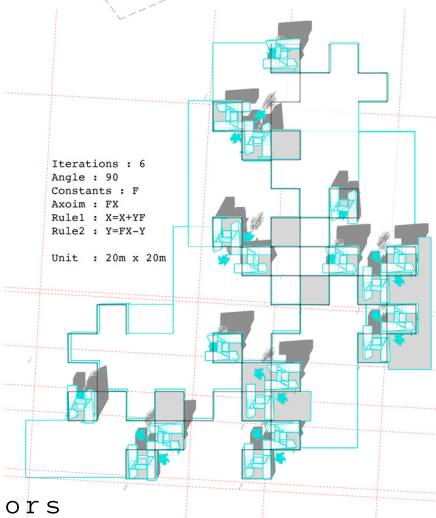




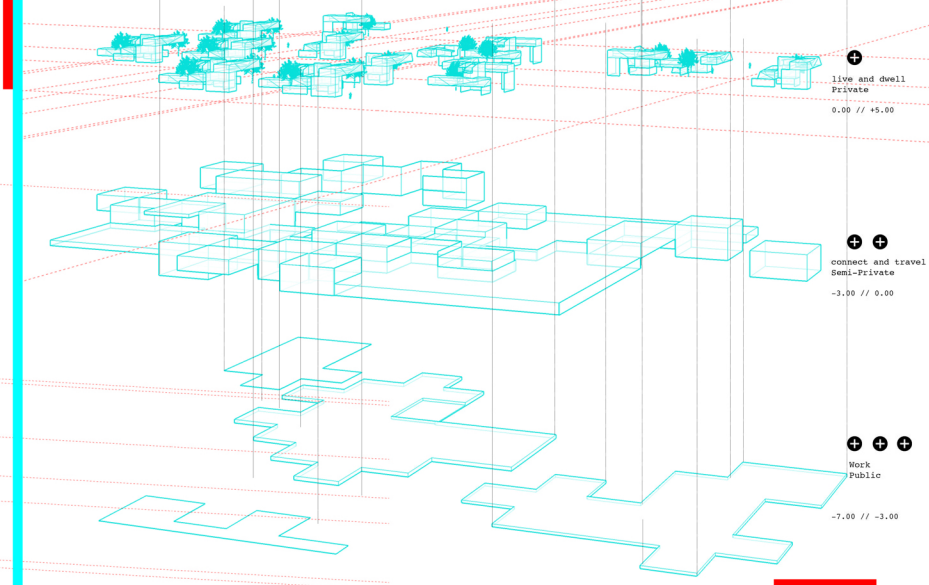
+2.80m Mid floor: Static places.



+0.00m First floor : Moving places/ Pod access.



neighbors interaction



Stage 06 : Site selection research //

The site was selected to be Vancouver city Canada, downtown according to the following criteria :

01. The most effected city by globalization in 2017

02. Architecture and intelligence is tested and proved effective for the first time in Vancouver.

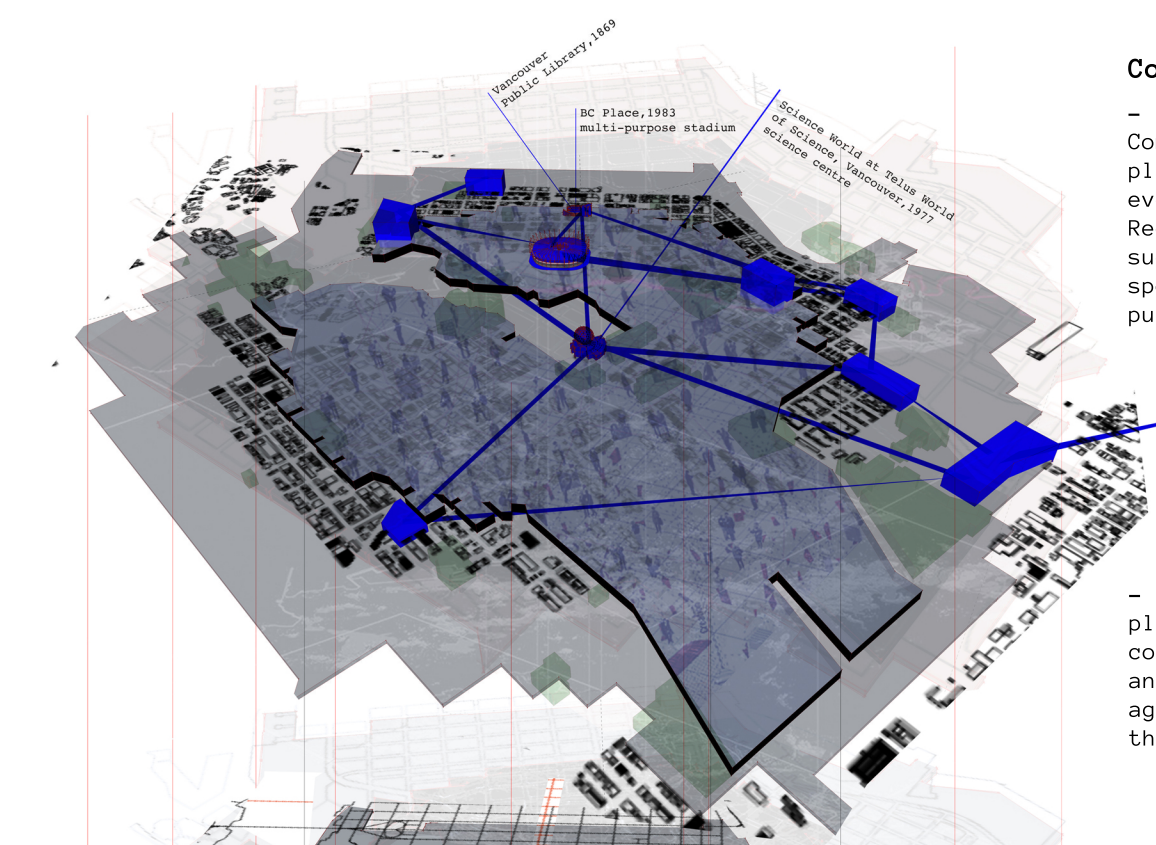
03. The dependence on smart devices for everyday living in this site is over 98%

Stage 07 : Site investigation //

:// Testing Vancouver - Canada : In an attempt to root a generic city at the heart of Vancouver - Canada. Vancouver has a high level of global citizens that would be close to accept the terms where utopia is a smart and a high-tech city.

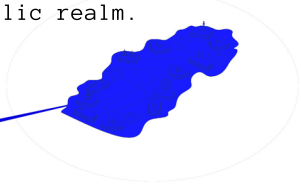
:// Three main urban planning design elements were investigated :

1.City cores + Public Realm
2.Connectivity (streets)
3.Green infrastructure

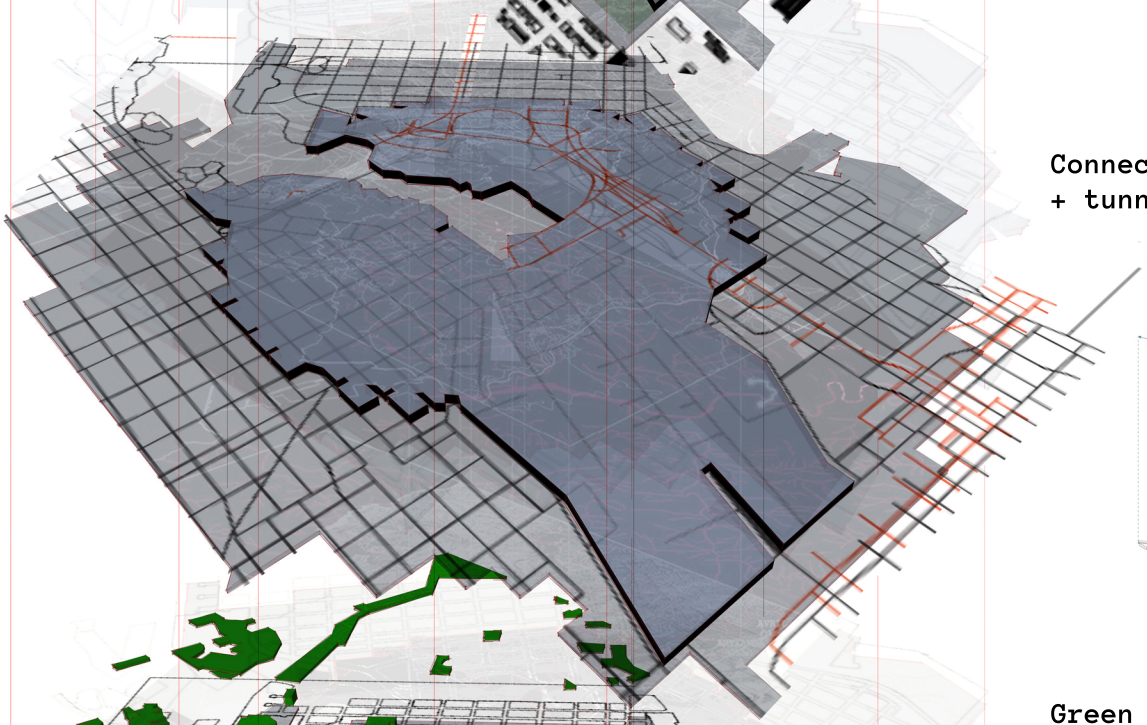


Cores + Public Realm //

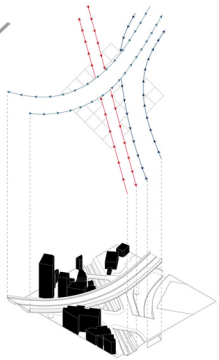
- **Public Realm :** Community gathering places mainly foe an event or public interest Recently, virtual places such as gaming gathering spots been considered as public realm.



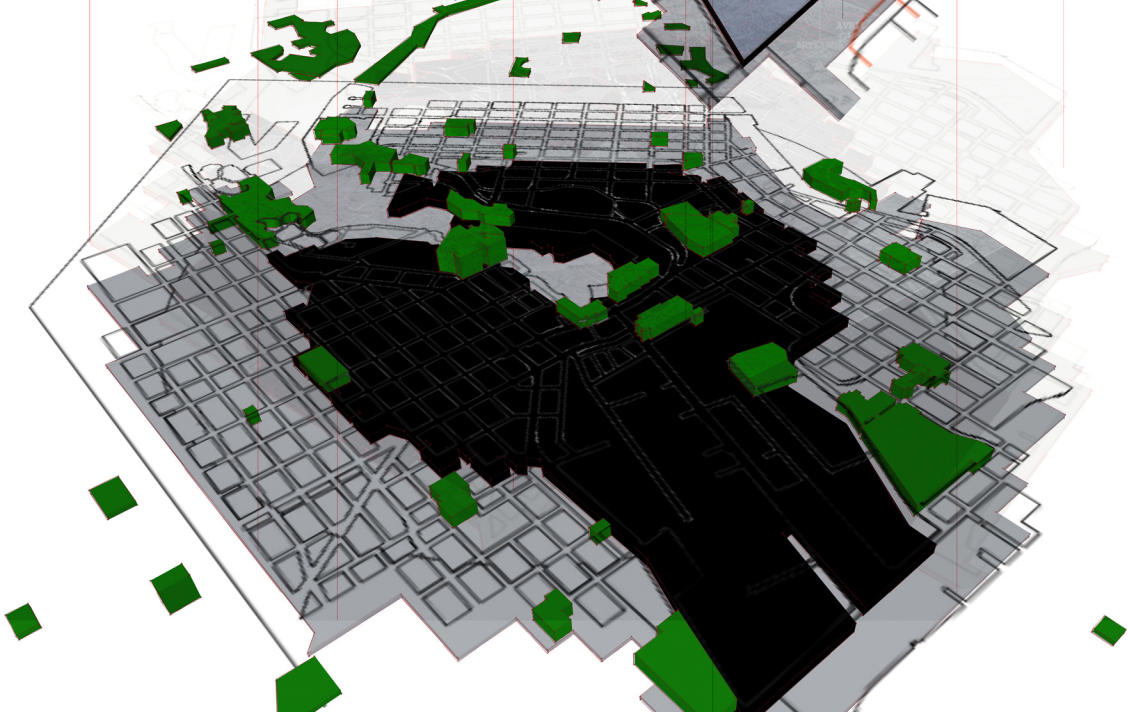
- **Cores :** Historic places that creates connection through time and place and defines the age of humans existed on this land.

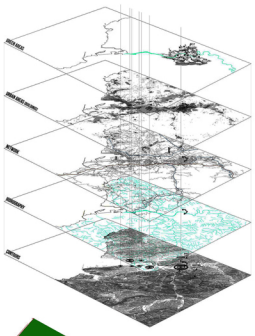


Connectivity // Streets + tunnels



Green Infrastructure // Natural + Man made





Stage 08 : Zoning //

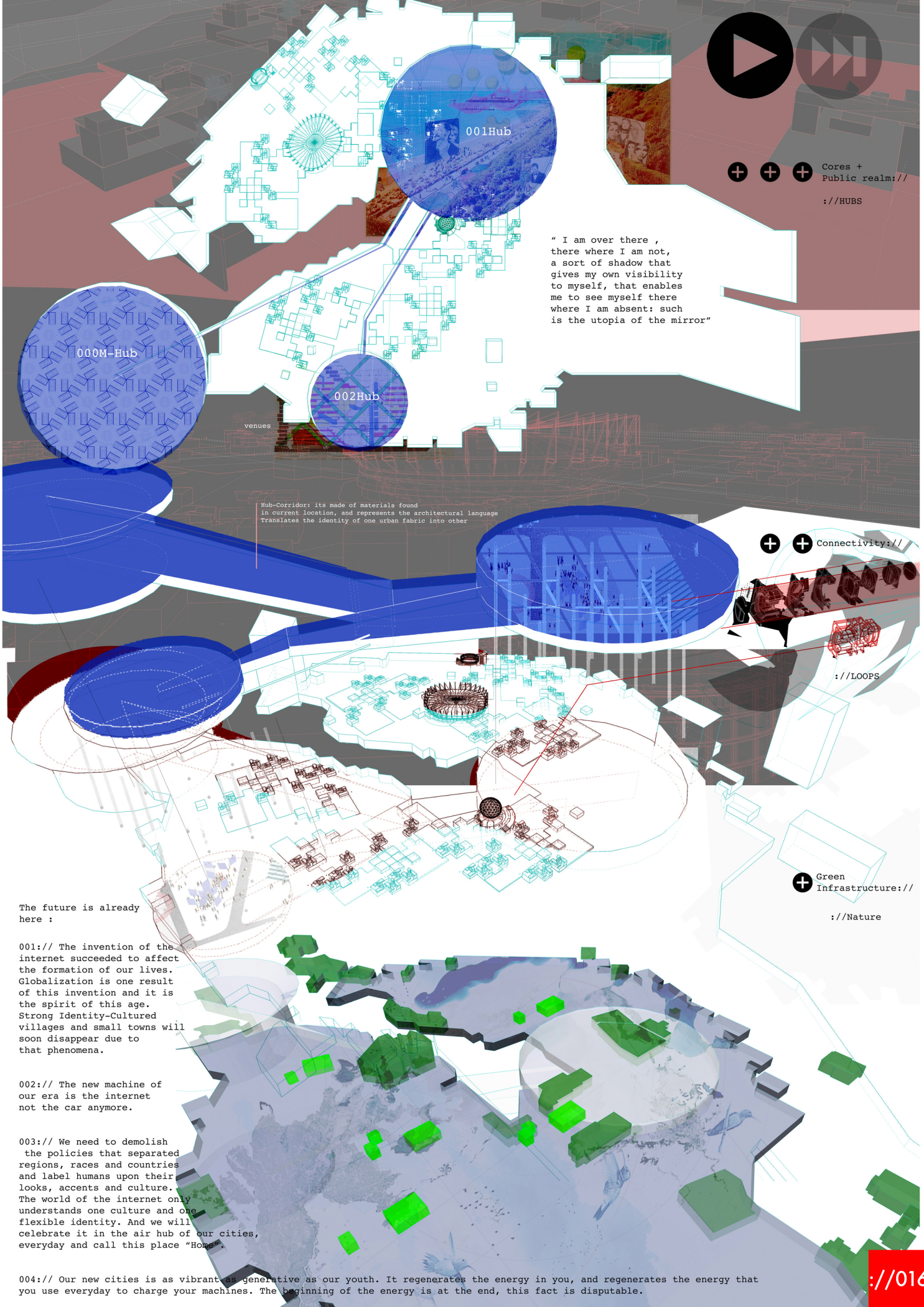
// City Planning : In an attempt to extend the concept of theoretical fractional dimensions in geometric patterns, fractal geometry led the planning of my city. The visual in this page is showing the formula that developed one cluster.

Stage 09 : Redefining the urban planning leading design elements //

01. Redefine public realm of Vancouver city in Canada : Besides all the shopping malls, cafes and parks, the virtual places is not separate from that, inhabiting the virtual places is an addition to public realm, instead in 2017 virtual places are the most inhabitable places .

://Urban corridors: are walking bridges located in different spots around the city that connects people in different places through the segmented reality. Because why should socializing be limited to the physical place?

://This bridge works in pairing point001 and point002 which are two different cities in different countries. People by visiting this bridge in two locations can hang out together.



The future is already here :

001:// The invention of the internet succeeded to affect the formation of our lives. Globalization is one result of this invention and it is the spirit of this age. Strong Identity-Cultured villages and small towns will soon disappear due to that phenomena.

002:// The new machine of our era is the internet not the car anymore.

003:// We need to demolish the policies that separated regions, races and countries and label humans upon their looks, accents and culture. The world of the internet only understands one culture and one flexible identity. And we will celebrate it in the air hub of our cities, everyday and call this place "Home".

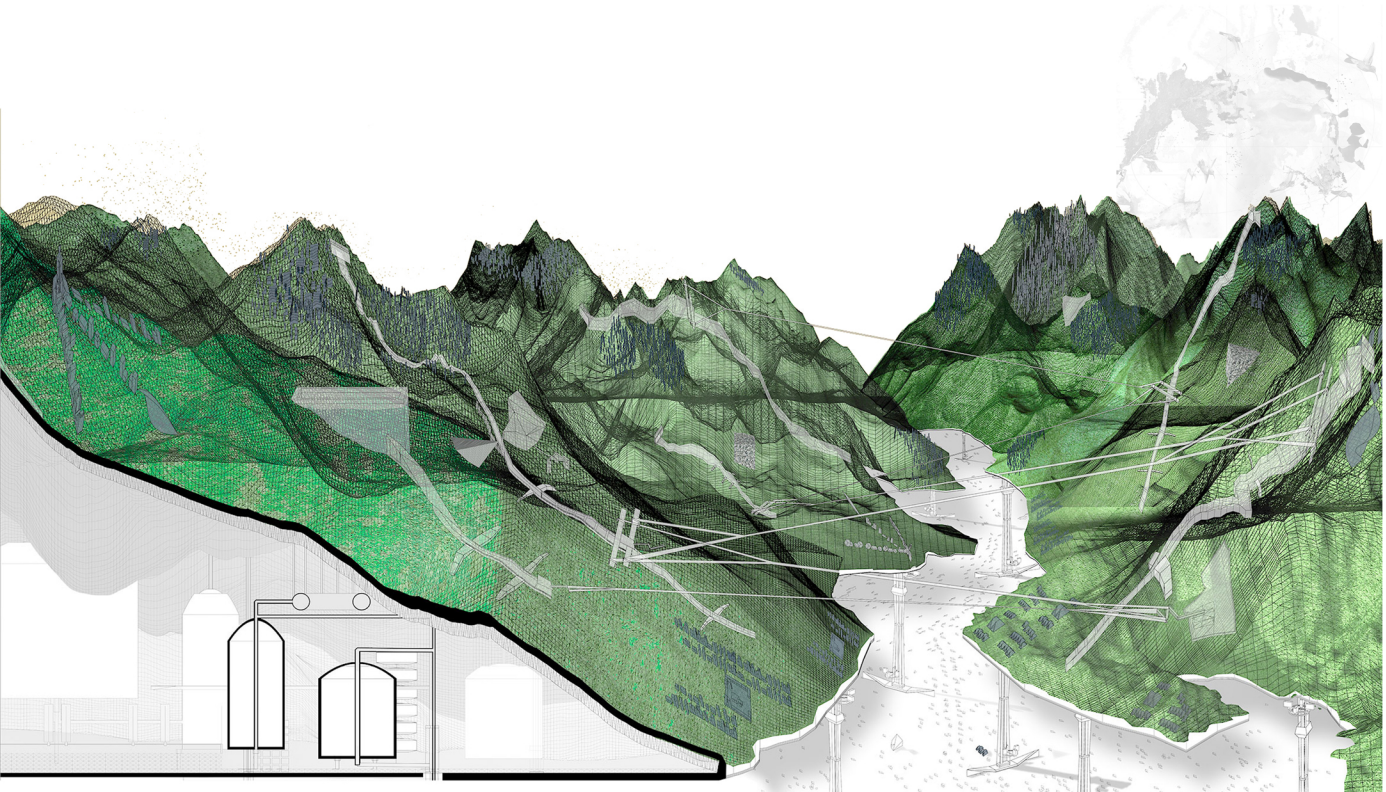
004:// Our new cities is as vibrant as generative as our youth. It regenerates the energy in you, and regenerates the energy that you use everyday to charge your machines. The beginning of the energy is at the end, this fact is disputable.

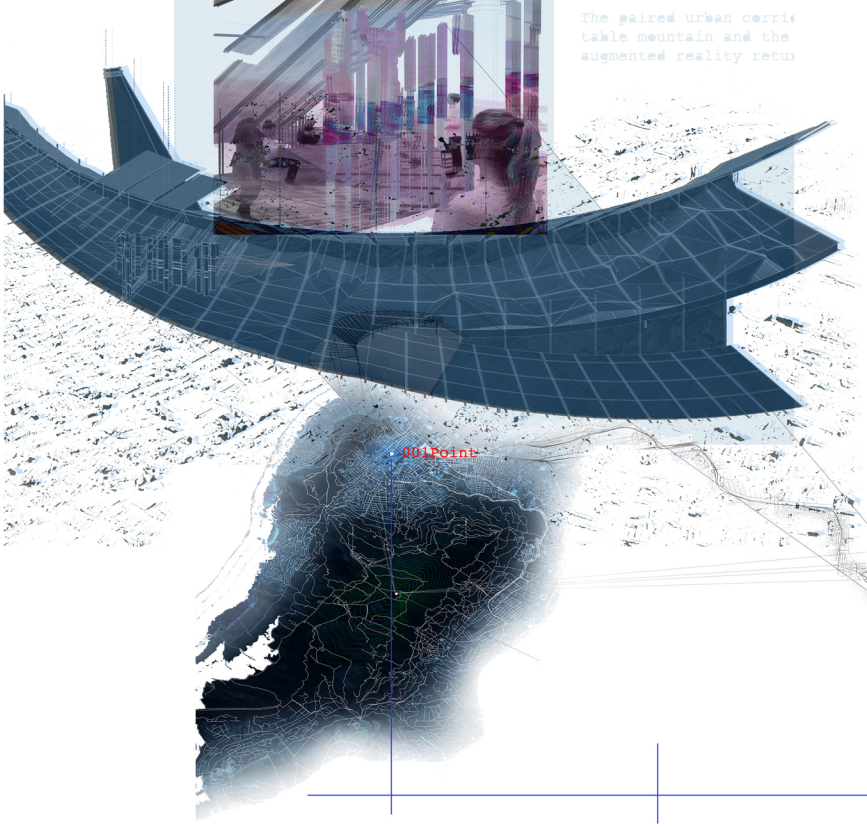
Stage 09 : Natural landscape //

02. Redefinition of nature : The phenomena of the physical world collectively, including natural landscape,. The importance of the connection between the human and nature will keep him reminded of where he original belong and keep him inspired by a smarted creation that the man made.

Stage 10 : Extension of the city //

The city is expected to keep reforming it self in different location of the world to create a faster and smarter ways of communication.





Cores +
Public realm://

://HUBS
in every city

The paired urban corridors end at the view of table mountain and the promenade through the augmented reality returns to physical reality

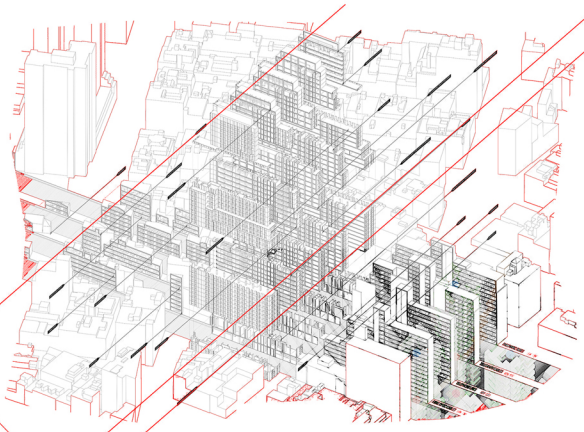


Urban motherboard://
Smoothing city to algorithmic efficiency

Connectivity://

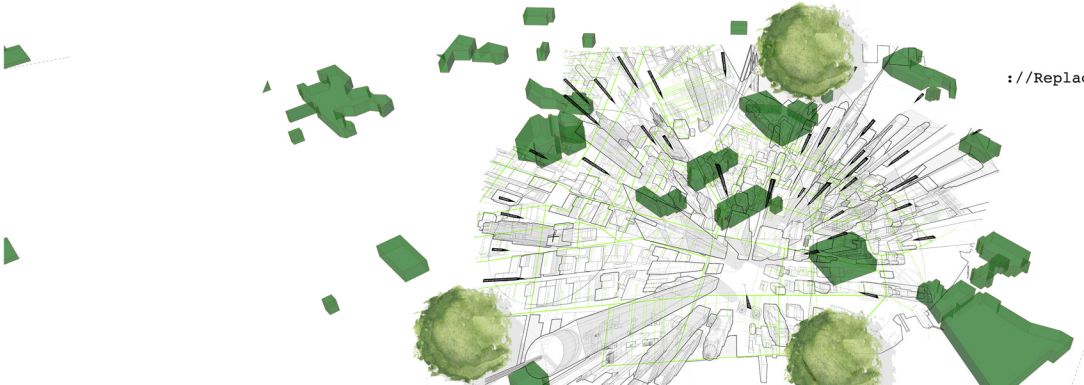
://Internet Physicality
Spatial hierachy of the digital age

://Cultural Revolution



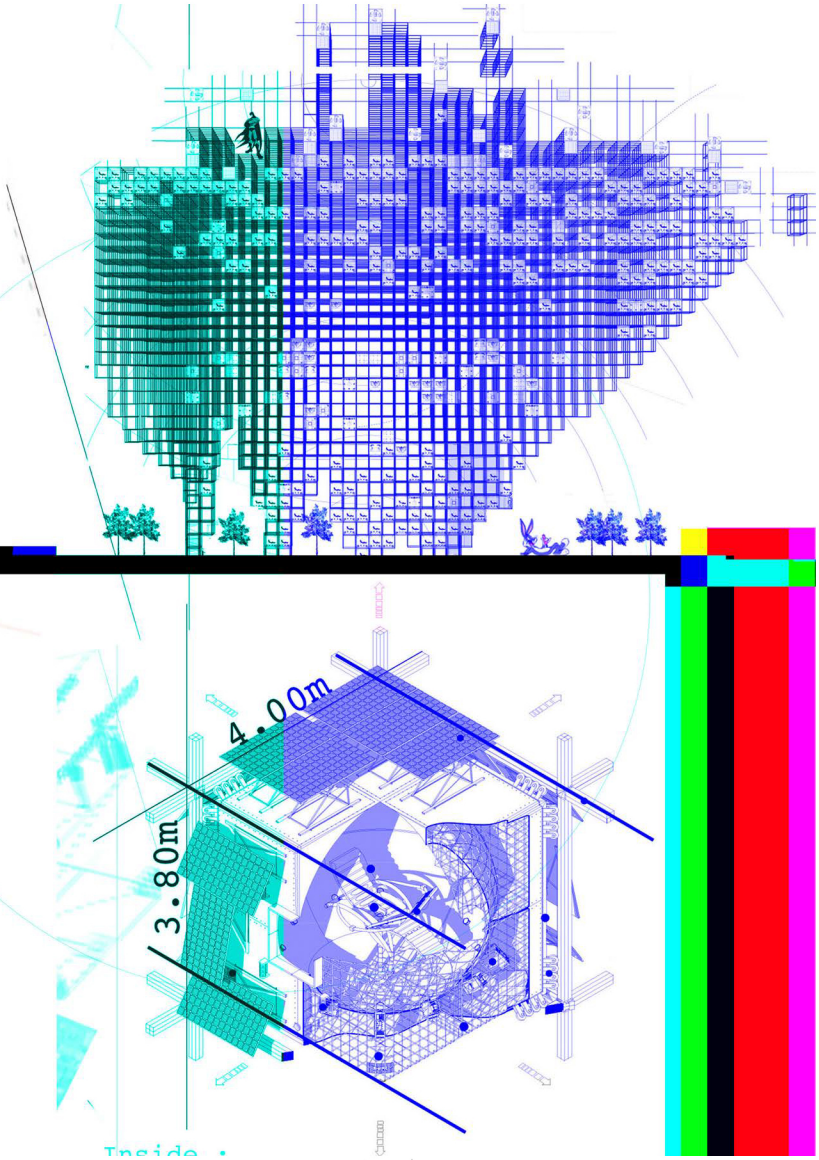


Green
Infrastructure://



://Replacing high rise buildings with trees
://Zero Gardining
://Sense of Nature

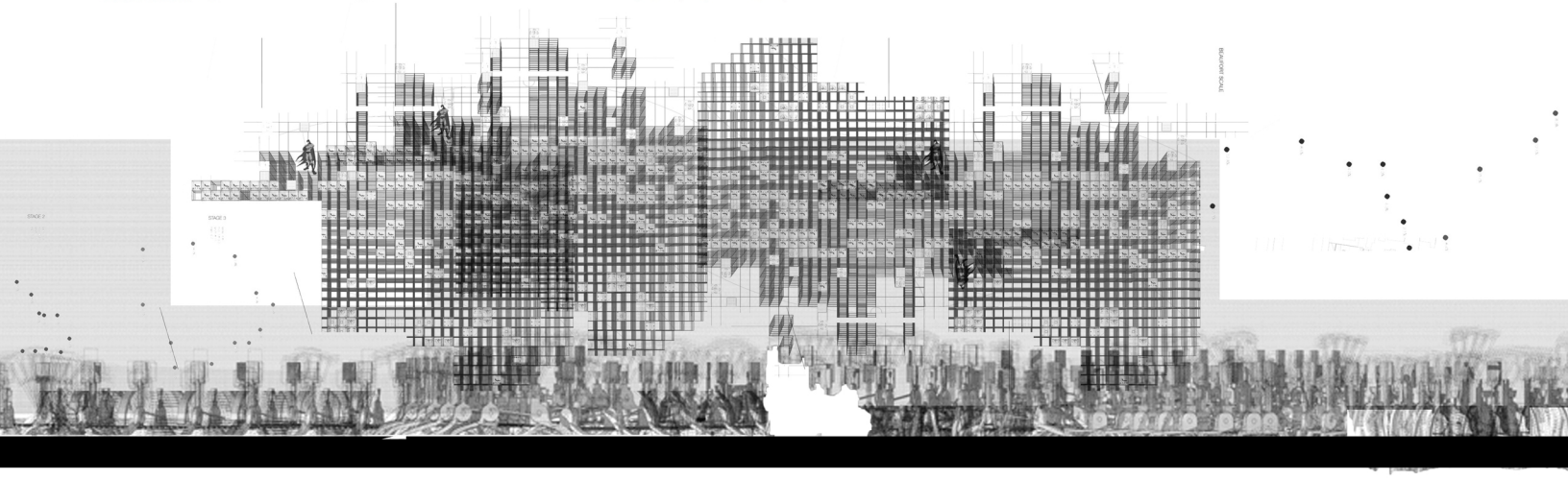
The AirHub



://The airhub is the most singular, characteristic element of the generic city. The airport can simply replace the city of the future. Designing a generic micro city at the heart of Vancouver-Canada to transform the living of that area and smooth the city to algorithmic efficiency.

:// The AirHub the system that connects the pods together, it is a combination of small flying machines that reproduce their own energy, connects to each other through the airhub which provides physical meeting spaces and virtual meeting spaces .

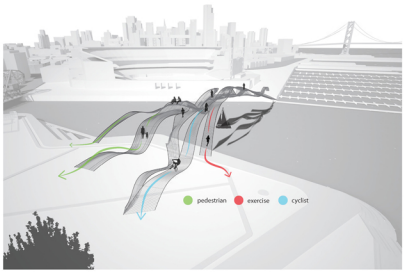
Taking a small flying trip from your home to the airhub which is located at the heart of the city can connect you to millions of people in the local location and also globally to as much people as possible. The system can create a hologram of you and whoever wishes to communicate virtually and by that you can inhabit more than one place at the same time.

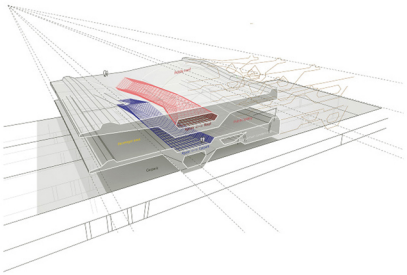


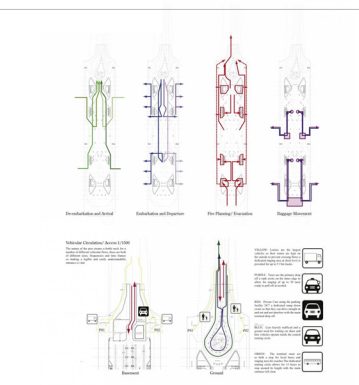
Precedent study - 01

Studying the public space and the airport space formation through this project : Yokohama International passenger Terminal / Foreign office Architects (FOA)

Points of Intersection
:// Public + Airport

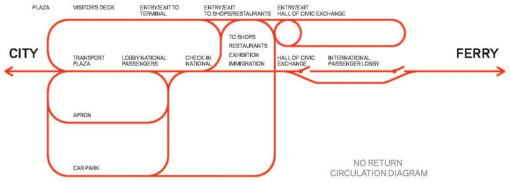


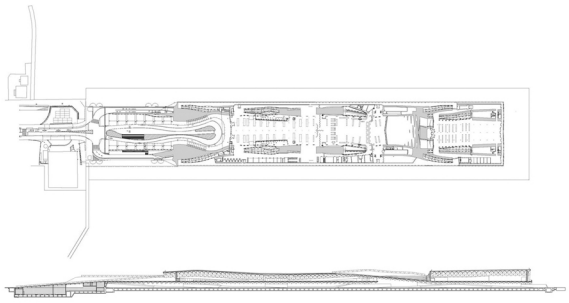


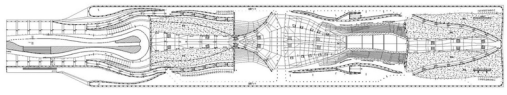


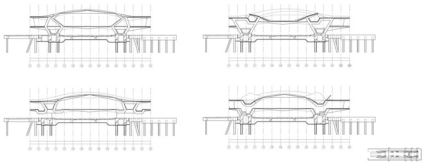


Diagrams
://Plans + Sections

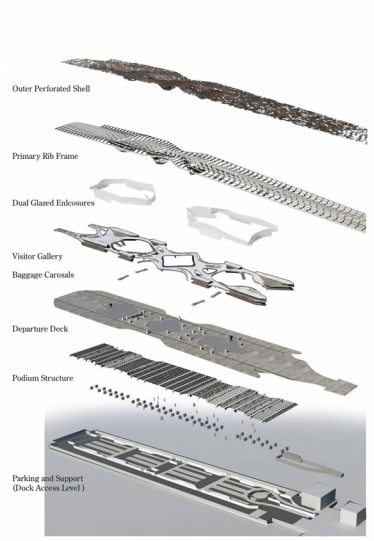






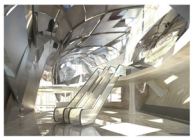


Materials
:// Landscape + roof







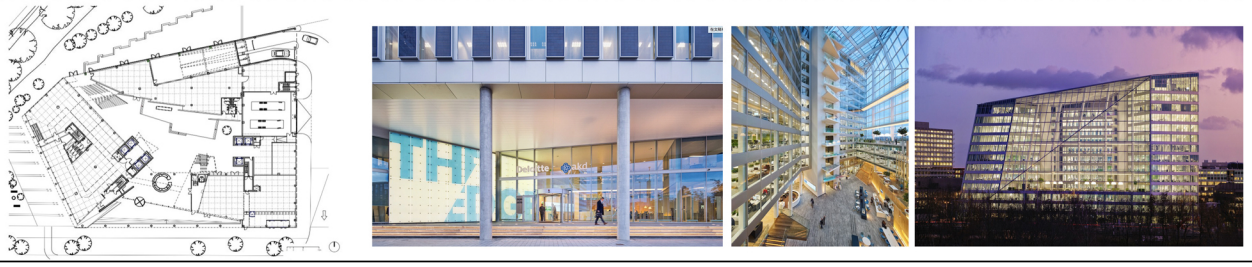




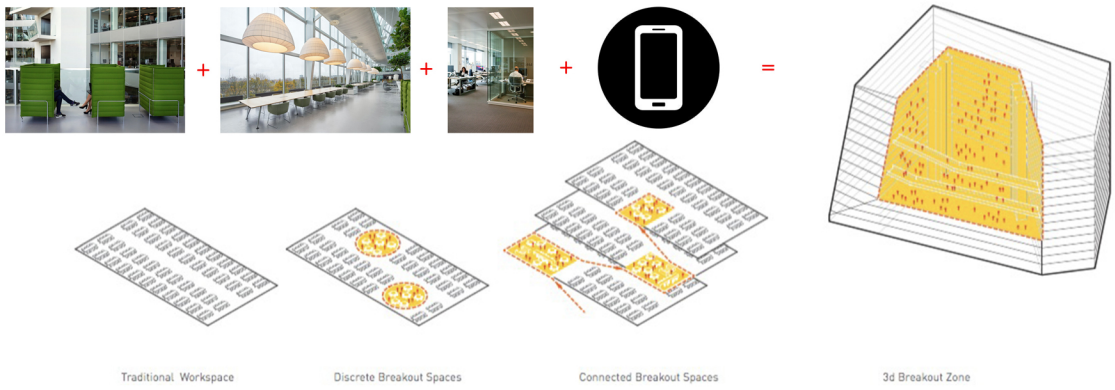
Precedent study - 02

Studying the physical reality and virtual reality space formation through this project in Vancouver: The edge office building / PLP Architects

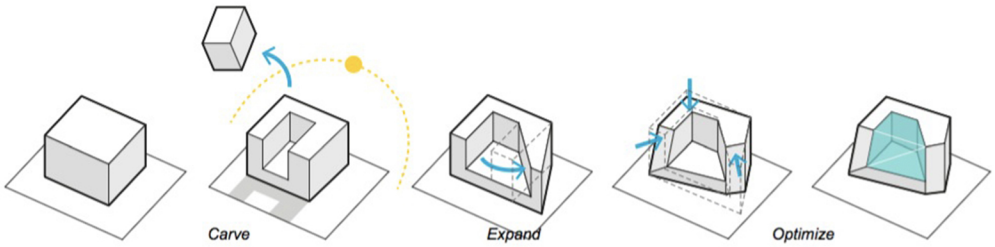
Diagrams ://Plans + views

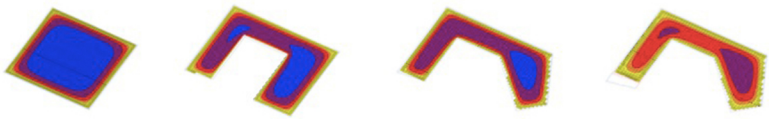


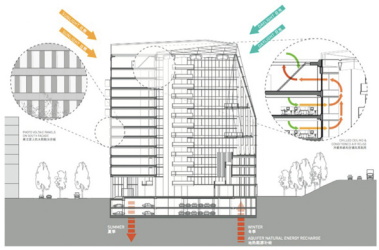
Points of Intersection ://Physical + virtual



Materials ://Green Building







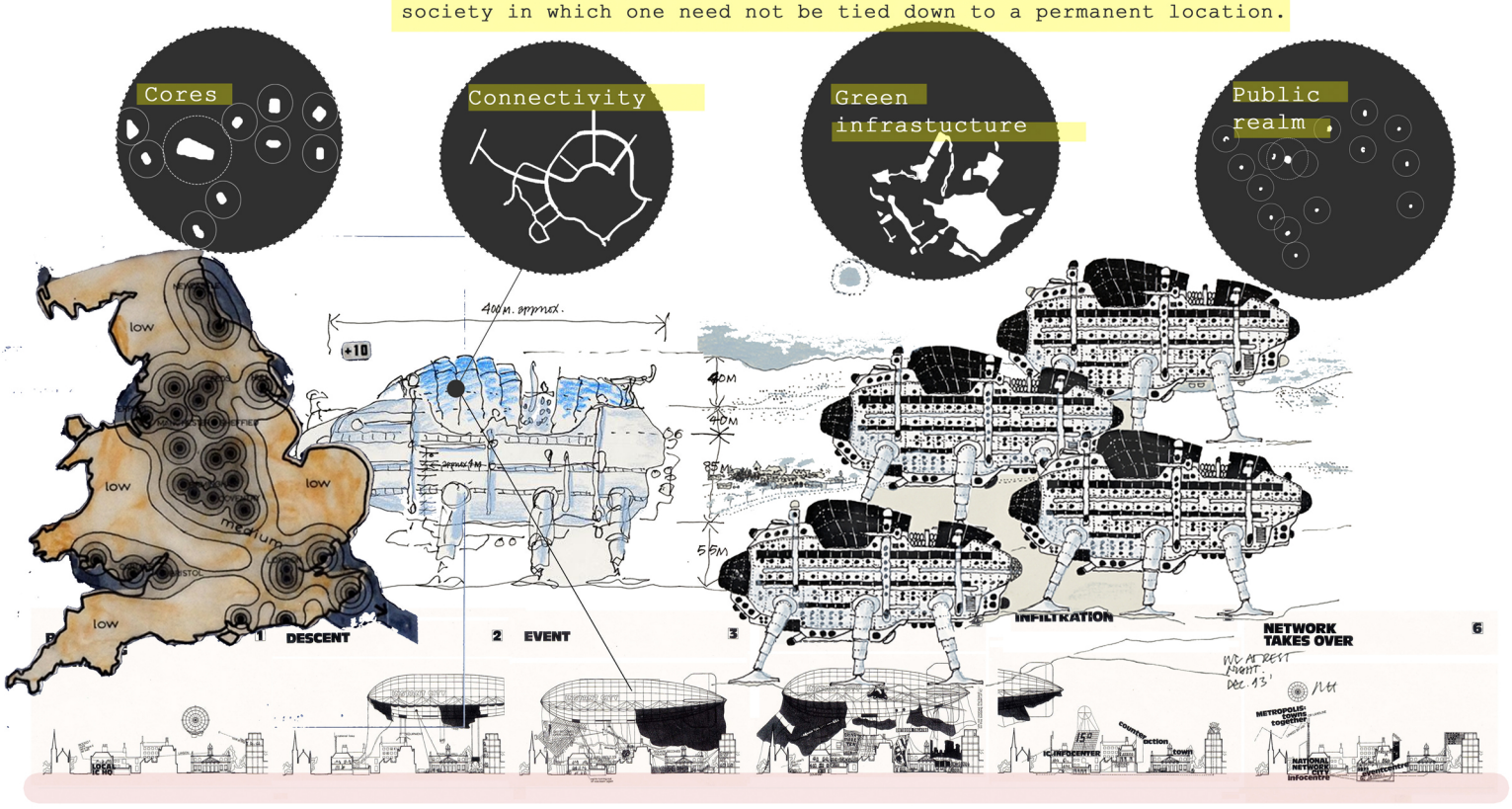
Precedent study - 03

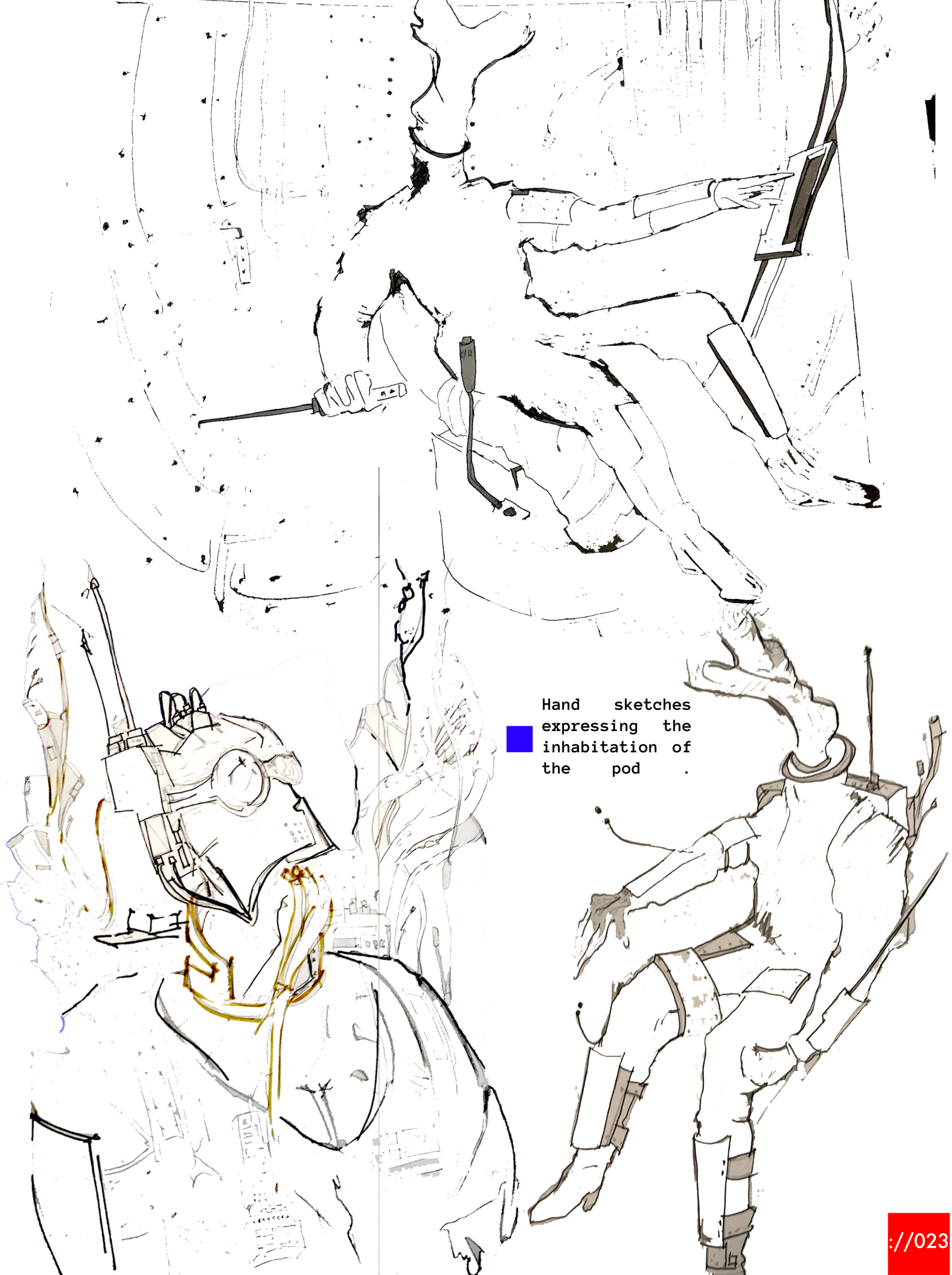
Studying Utopic vision that translates social interests and public-culture that is detached from a static physical place and understands the city as a moving form and a collection of moving machines through this project : The walking city / Archigram

City + Moving Machines : The Waking City - Archigram

Precedent //: The walking city - Archigram

the fast-paced urban lifestyle of a technologically advanced society in which one need not be tied down to a permanent location.





Hand sketches expressing the inhabitation of the pod .

:// Chapter C

Final Thesis Design

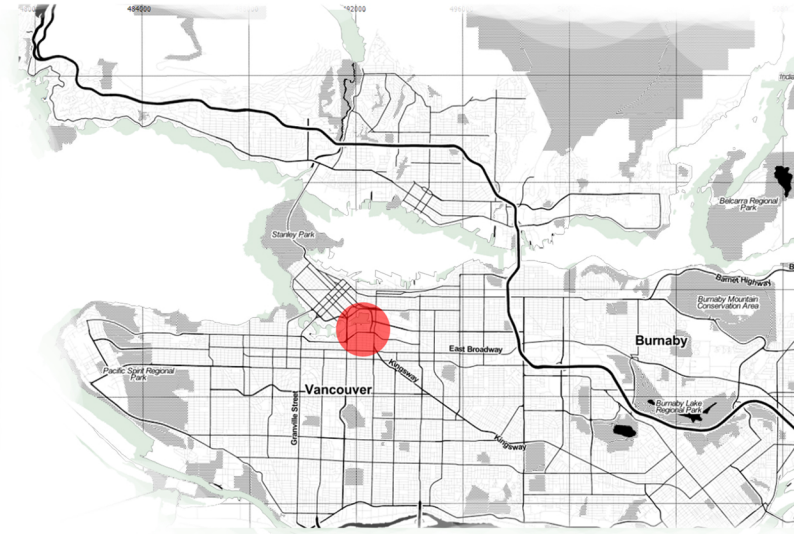
:// How do you live ?



Final Design

Site analysis 01 //





Site Map
Location : Vancouver - Canada
False Creek

Zoning : Comprehensice Development Area

Site Area : 930290 m2
: 10013558.2 ft2

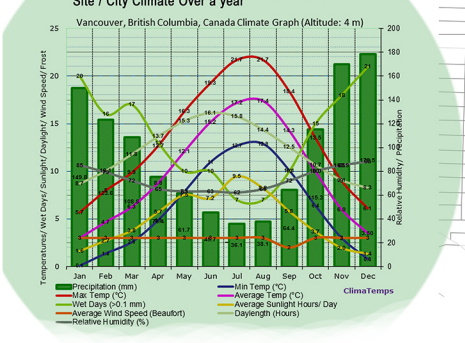
Map Scale On A2 paper size 1:10m

proposed new Pacific Boulevard

proposed new georgia St Ramp

city owned block

Site / City Climate Over a year

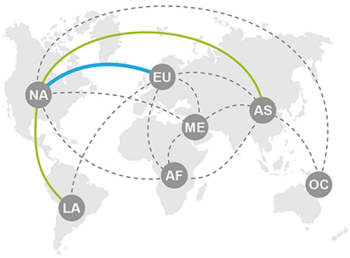


Cross-border data flows are surging and connecting more countries

Used cross-border bandwidth

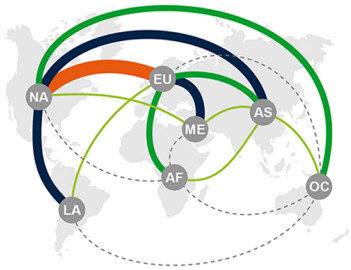
Regions	NA United States and Canada	EU Europe	AS Asia	LA Latin America	ME Middle East	AF Africa	OC Oceania
Bandwidth Gigabits per second (Gbps)	<50	50–100	100–500	500–1,000	1,000–5,000	5,000–20,000	>20,000

2005
100% = 4.7 Terabits per second (Tbps)



2014
100% = 211.3 Tbps

45x larger



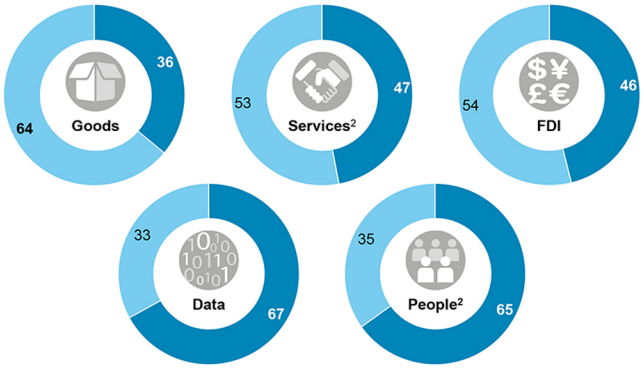
NOTE: Lines represent interregional bandwidth (e.g., between Europe and North America) but exclude intraregional cross-border bandwidth (e.g., connecting European nations with one another).

SOURCE: TeleGeography, Global Internet Geography; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

While much of the world's trade in goods is long distance, roughly half or more of other global flows move within the same region

Distribution of flows between intraregional (short haul) vs. interregional (long haul), 2014[1]
% of world flow

Short haul (intraregional)
Long haul (interregional)



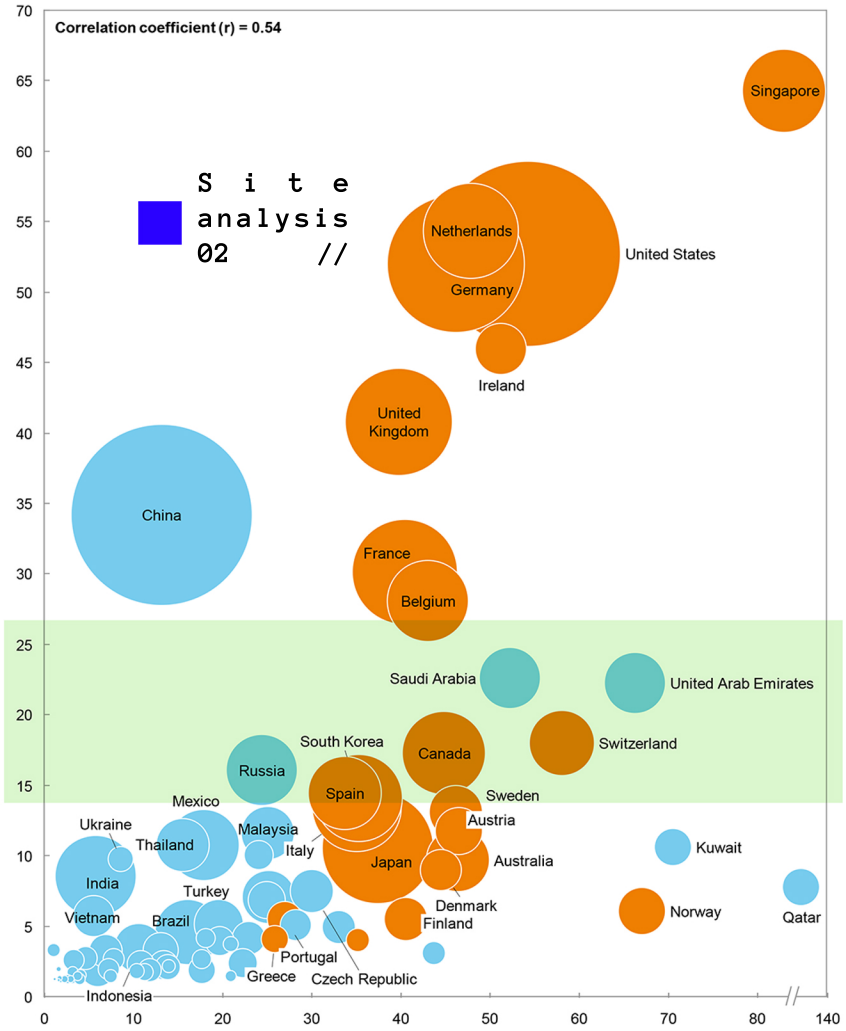
1 For goods, services, FDI, and travelers we have divided the world into 10 regions; for data flows we have used TeleGeography's six regions.
2 Distribution of services flows for 2014 estimated based on 2011 data; 2013 bilateral traveler data used for people flows.
NOTE: Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

SOURCE: UNCTAD; UN World Tourism Organization; TeleGeography, Global Internet Geography; IMF; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

A small group of leading countries are much more connected than the rest of the world

Emerging
Developed
Size of circle represents $ value of flows in 2014

Connectedness score, 2014



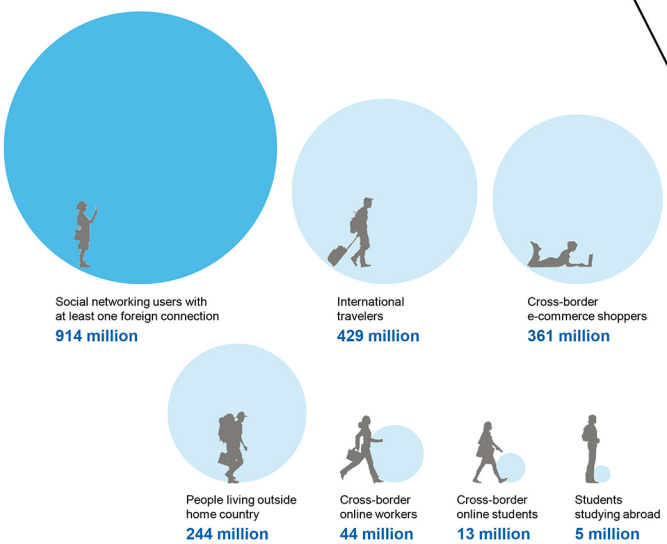
Per capita GDP, 2014
$ thousand, purchasing power parity, current international dollar

SOURCE: IMF; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Globlization

is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies, and governments of different nations, a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology.

Individuals are participating in globalization, and 914 million have cross-border social media connections



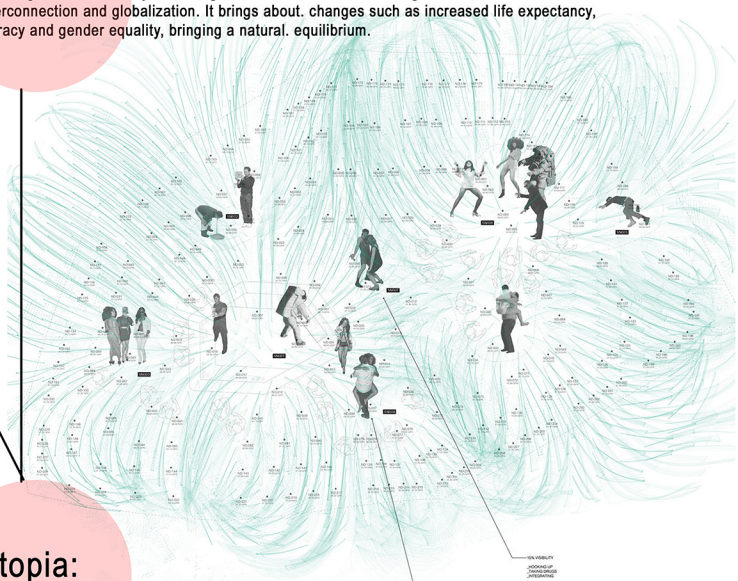
NOTE: Numbers adjusted to account for overlap between platforms and for individuals making multiple international trips in the same year.

SOURCE: Facebook; AliResearch; US Department of Commerce; OECD; World Bank; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Architecture or techno-utopia?

Contemporary Society:

A setting characterized by technological. innovation and increasing human interconnection and globalization. It brings about. changes such as increased life expectancy, literacy and gender equality, bringing a natural. equilibrium.



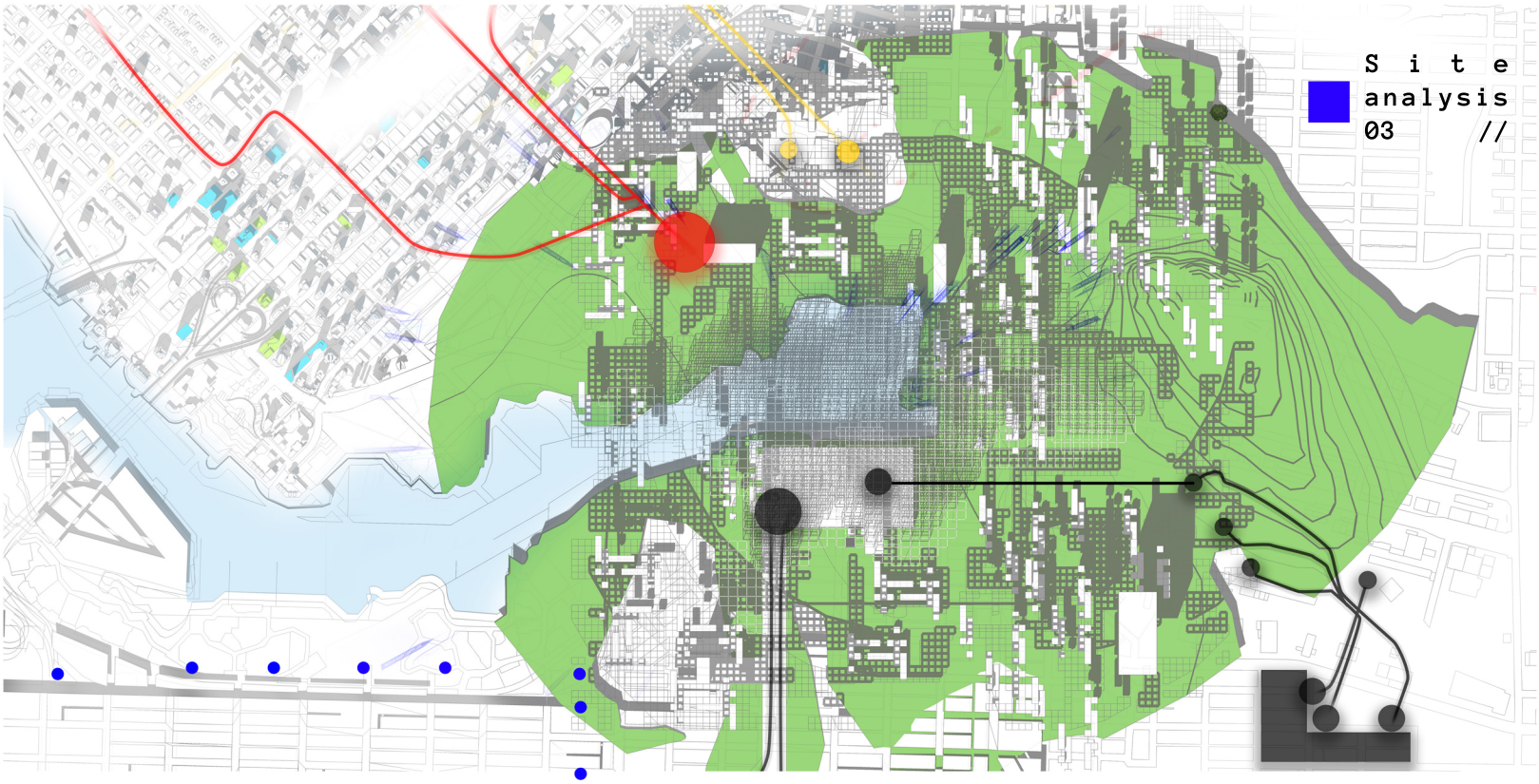
Utopia:

means "no-place", and strictly describes any non-existent society 'described in considerable detail'.



S i t e
analysis
02 //

://025



Site analysis 03 //

Interrelation between
People / machine / site

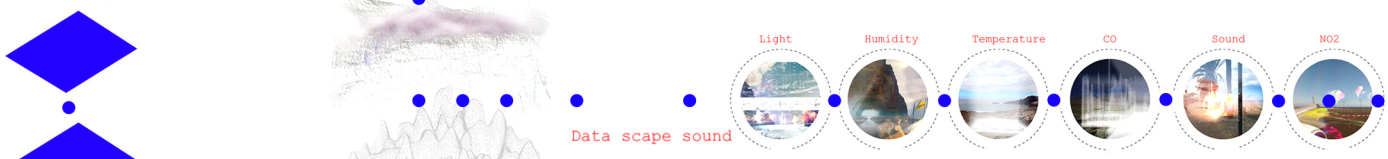
Sensational Landscape + Natural Landscape
:// How can the city create and interweave data landscape and nature landscape/'

0 10 20 30 50 100

N

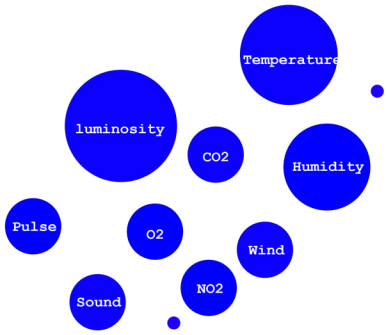
- Services to main factory
- Access from and to the old city
- Tourists
- Natural Landscape

:// Creating the scenario/' Atmospheric architecture



:// The concept of sensor reading and feeding the system to create the database.

:// The reading are real-time thus shaping our sensational Landscape which we inhabit.

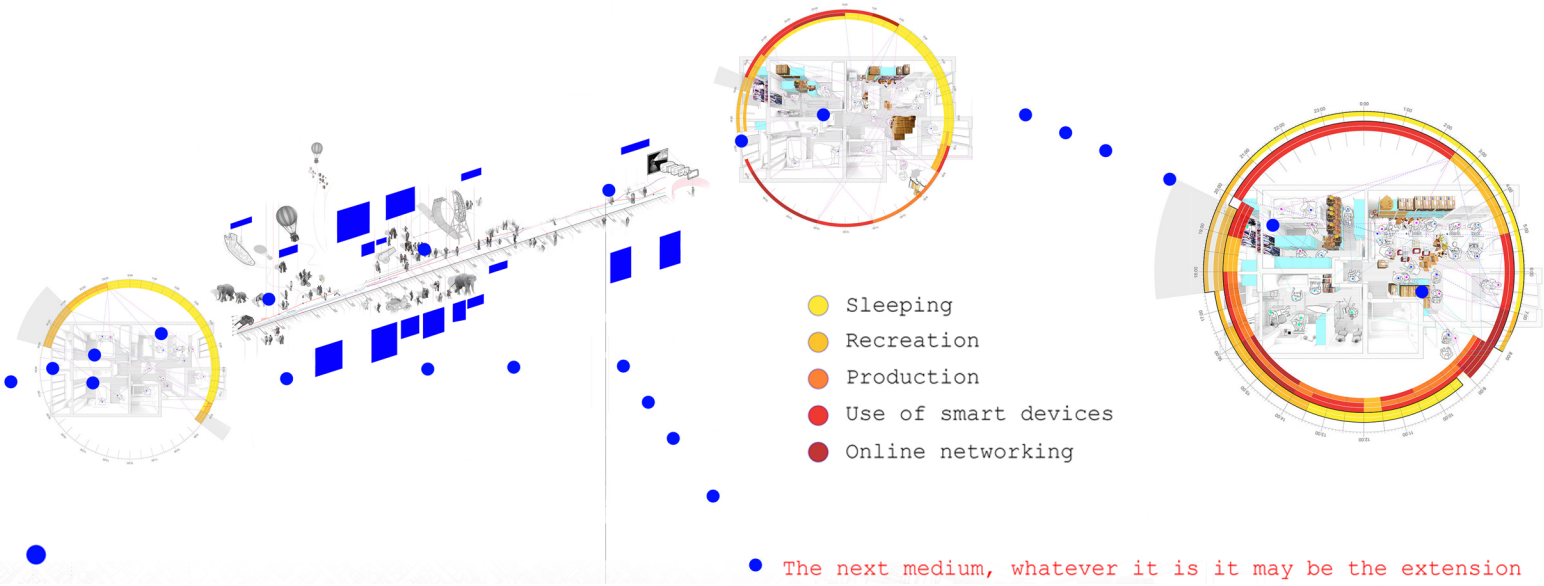




:// Modern Living transformation in the same house over 30 years

:// Case study : Family of three house

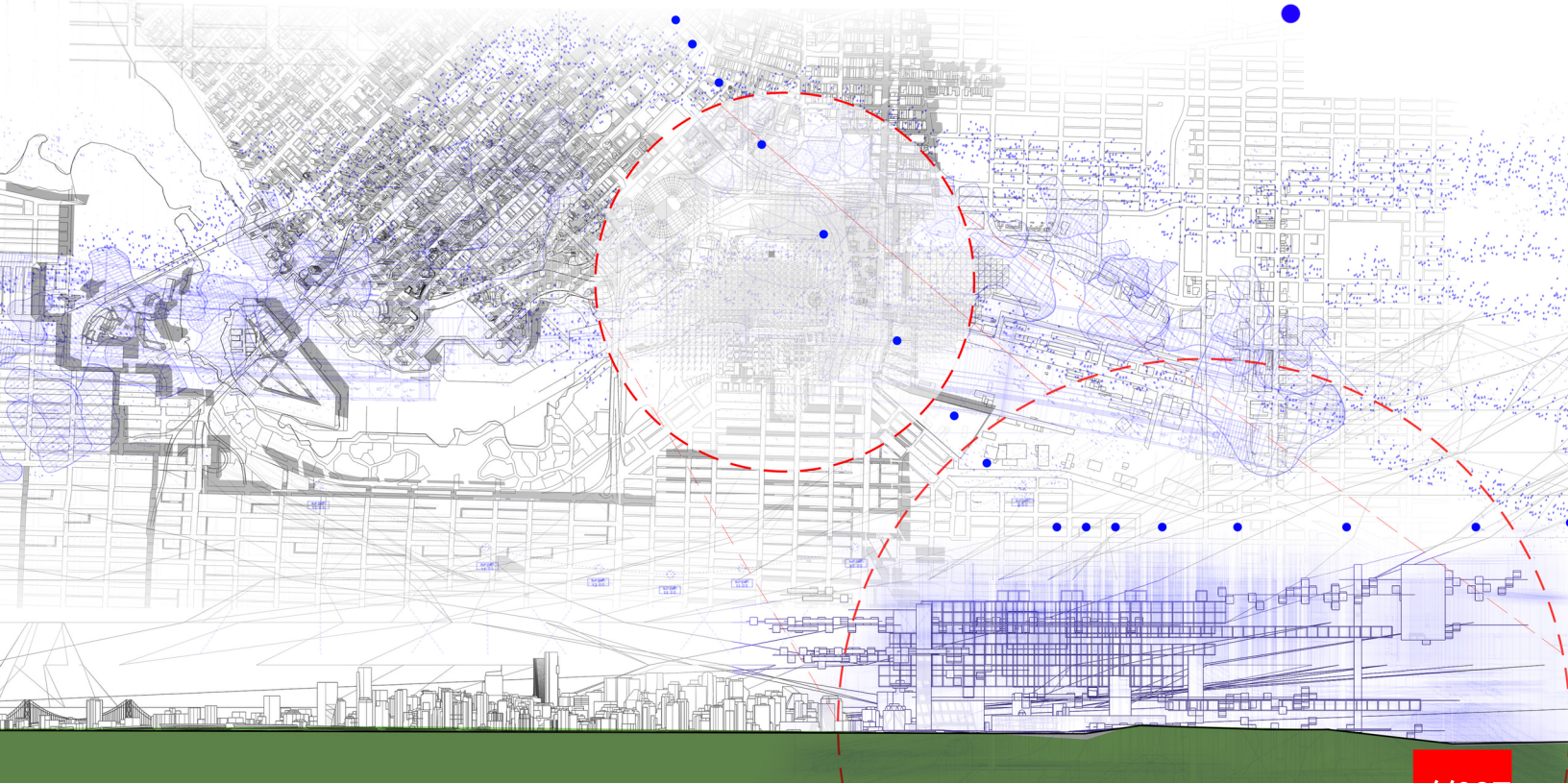
Modern Domestic Condition
The transformation of three people familty from a pure living space to a self-manufacturing, storagfe, trading and logistic space.



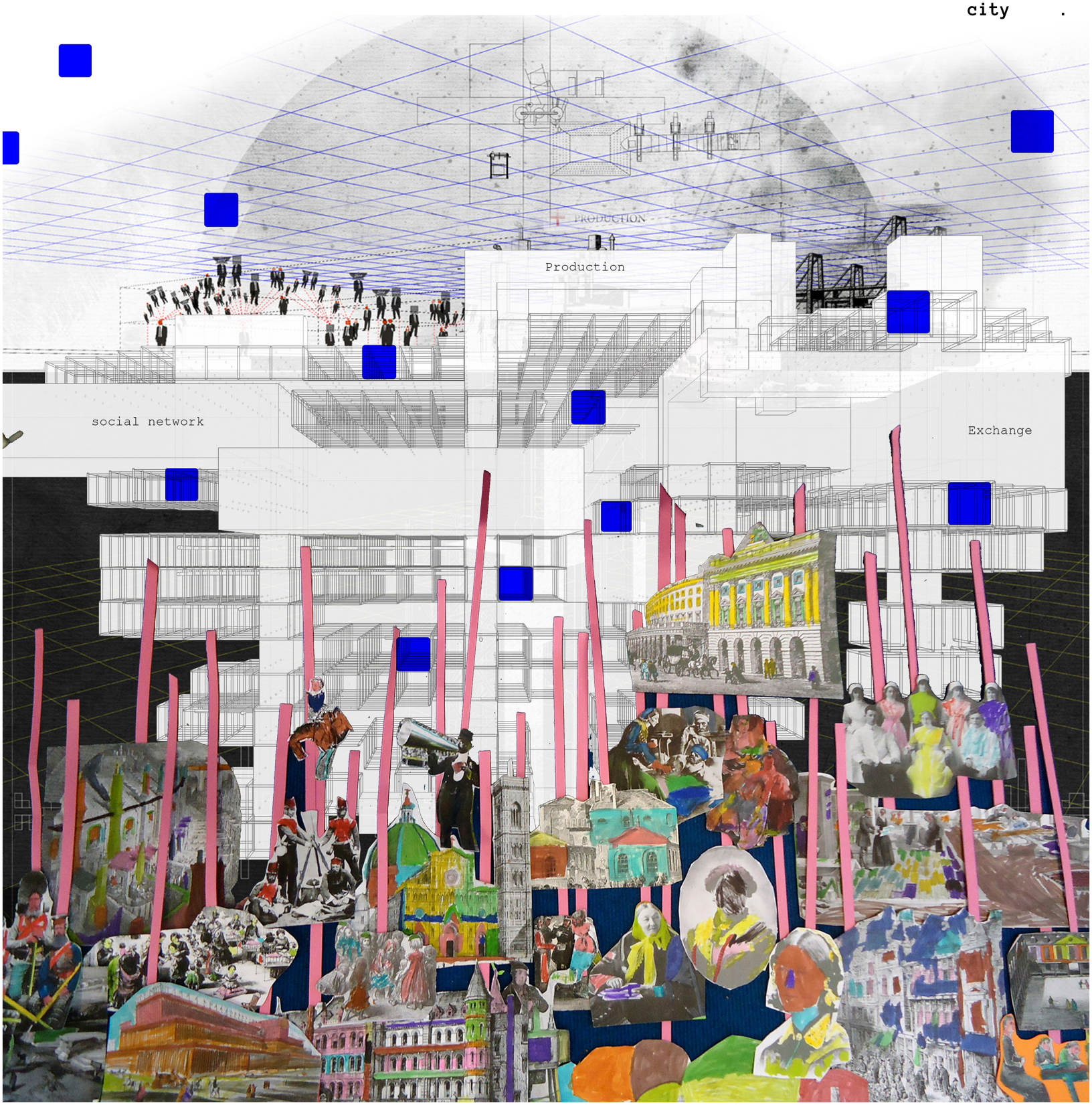
The next medium, whatever it is it may be the extension of consciousness—will include television as its content, not as its environment, and will transform television into an art form - Marshall McLuhan

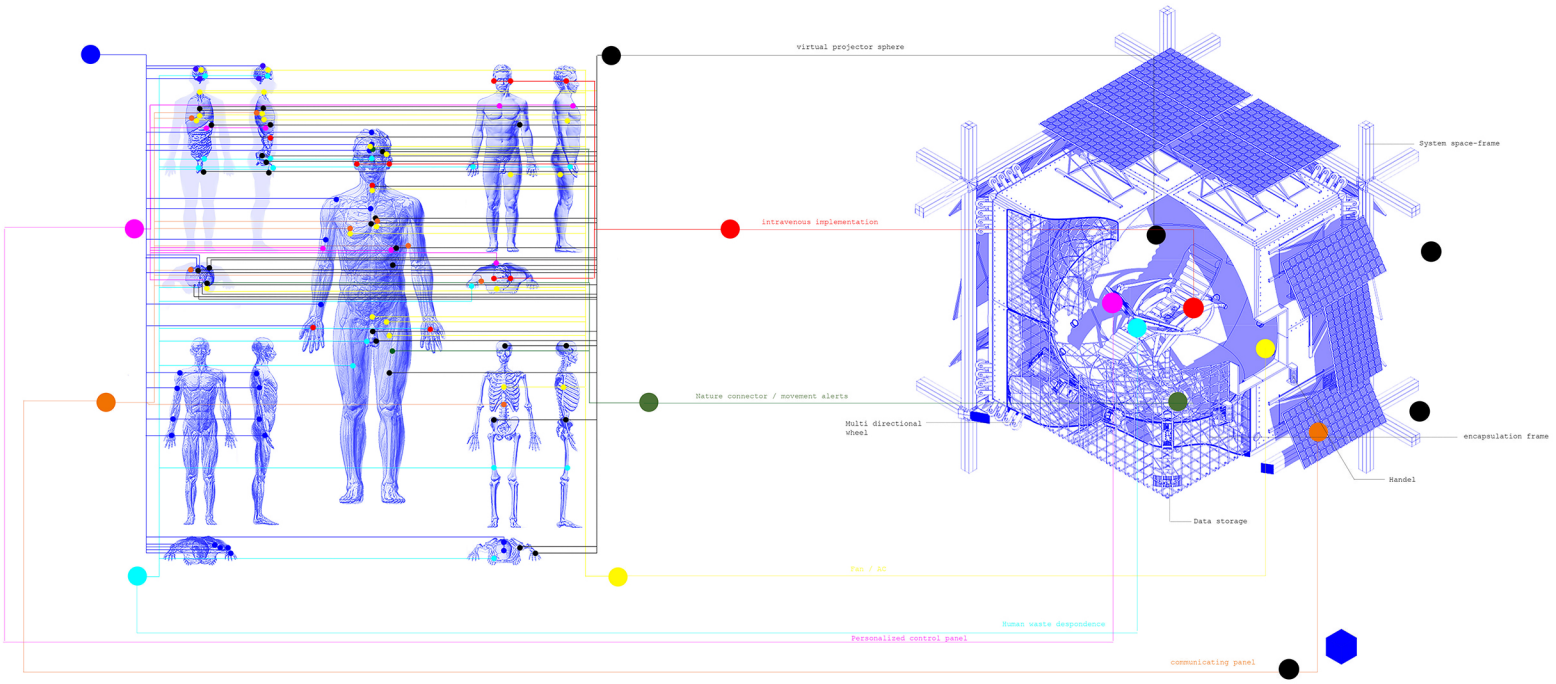
// lifestyle
Global village
Density
Nature

Landscape + Data scape ://

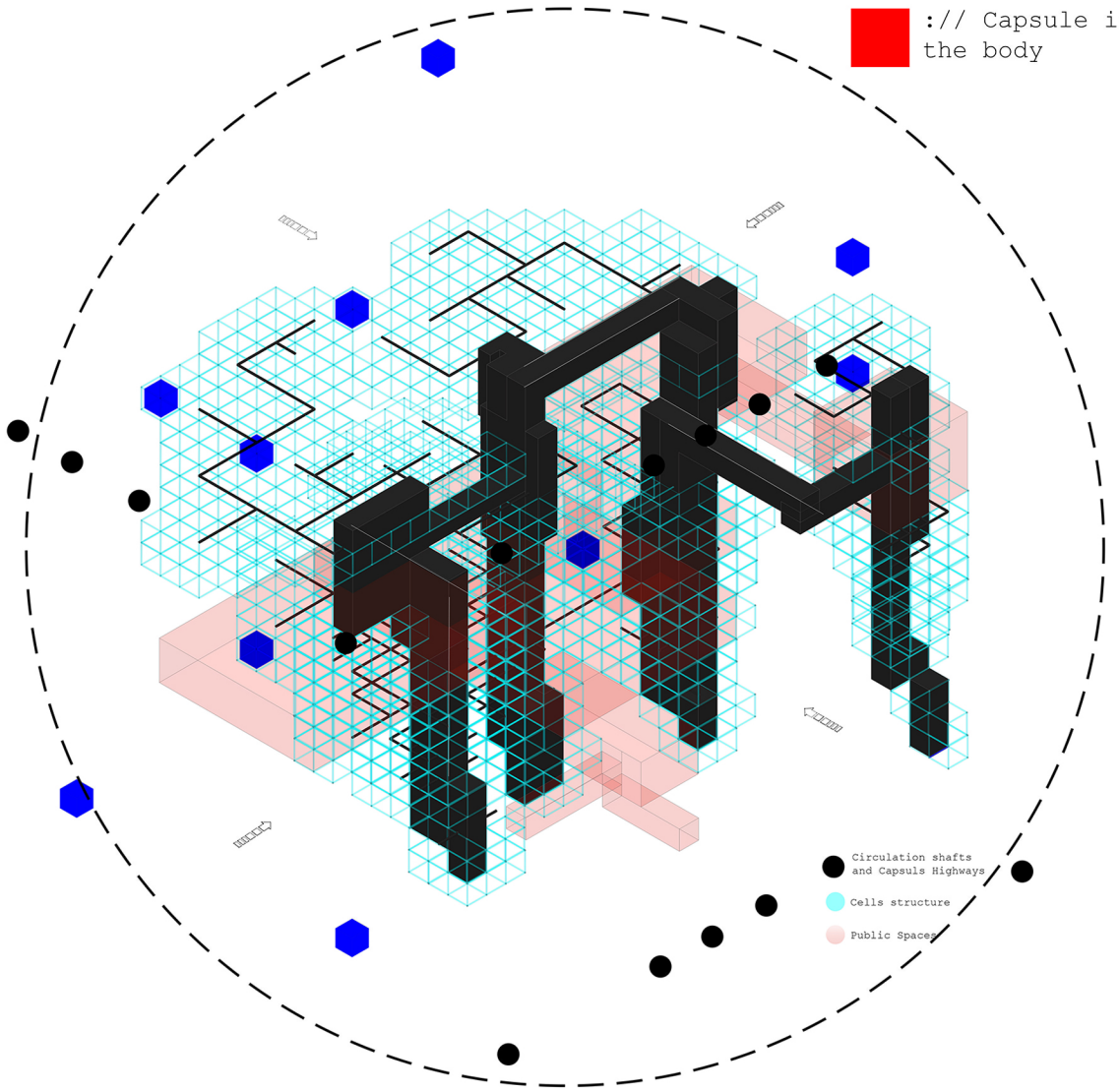


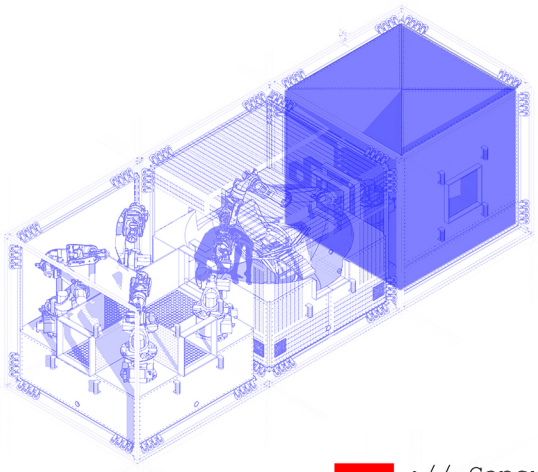
v i s i o n s
o f o l d
a n d n e w
c i t y .

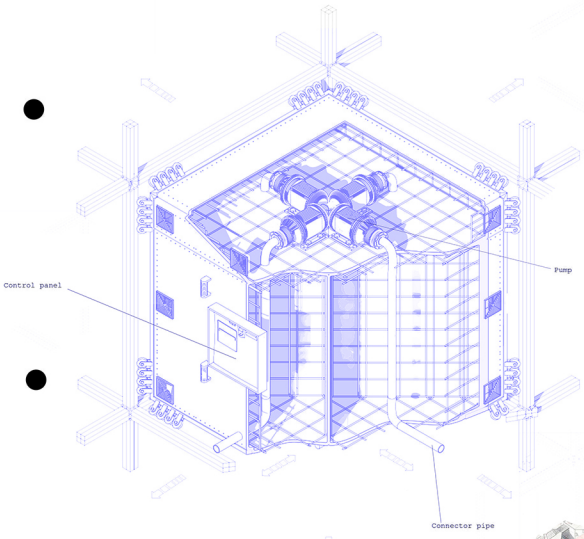




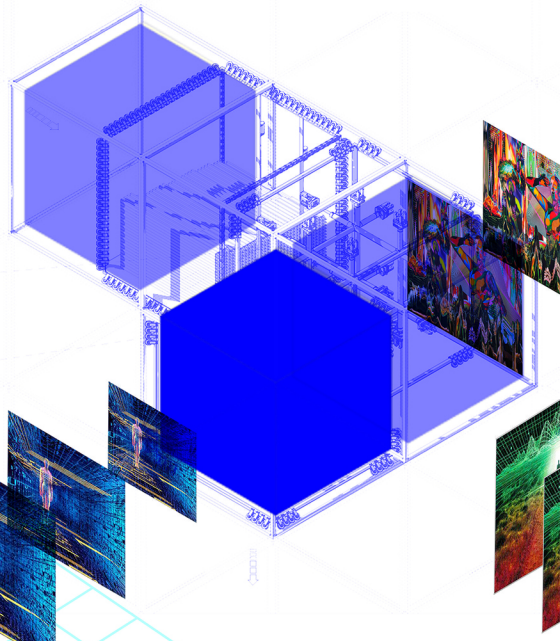
:// Capsule is an extension of the body

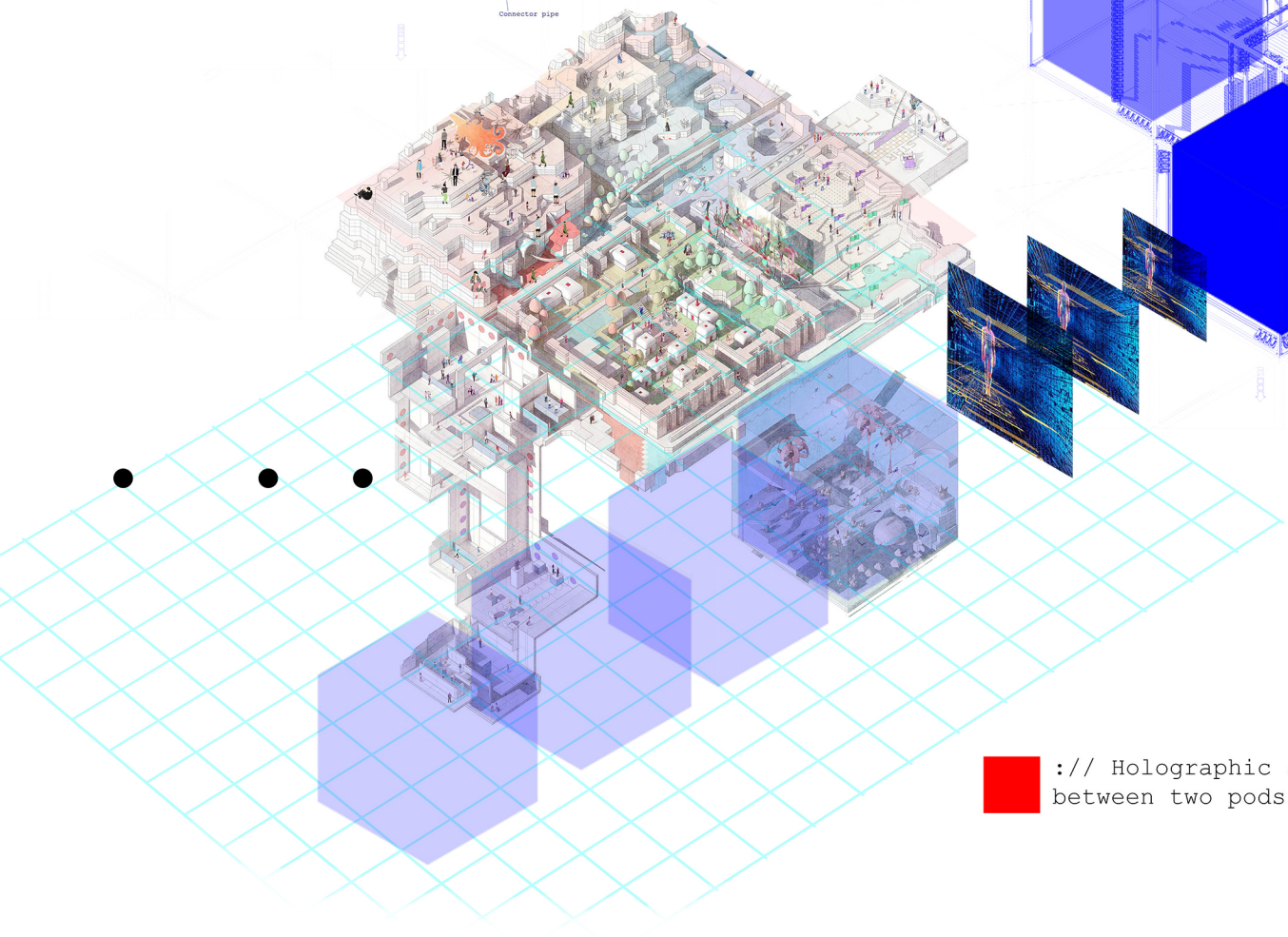






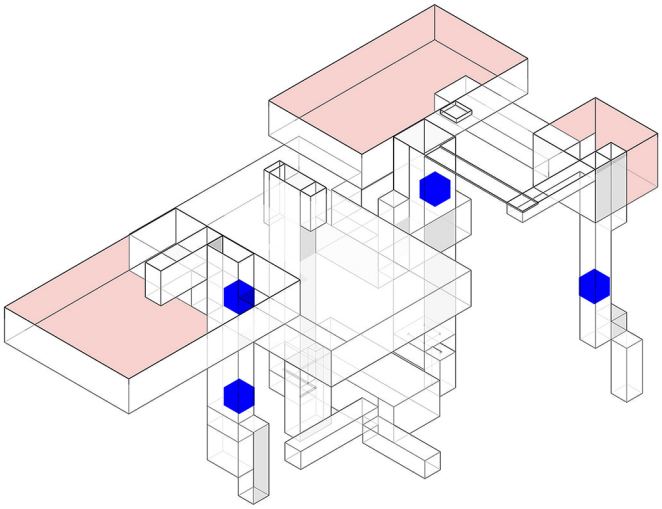
:// Capsule, service pods and public spaces



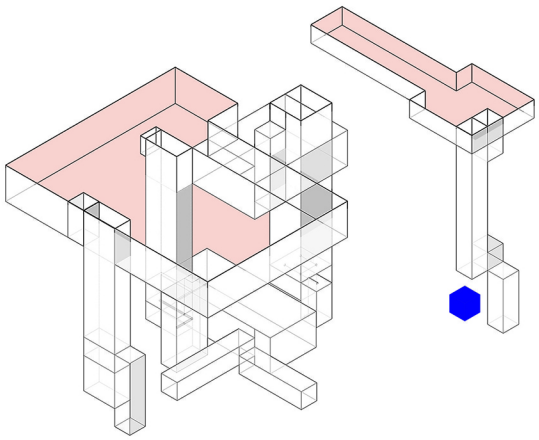


:// Holographic spaces between two pods or more

:// Public space, physical and virtual



+ Meet for party/ food / shop



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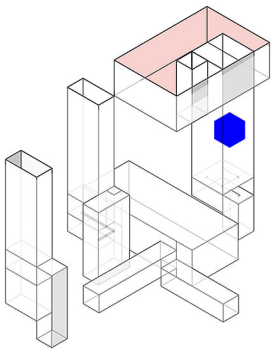
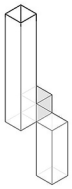
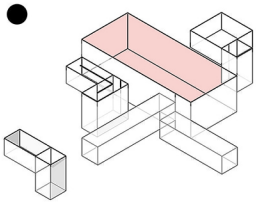
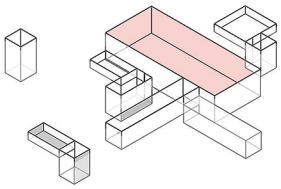




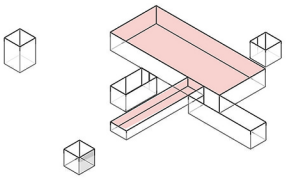
+ Meet the elderly



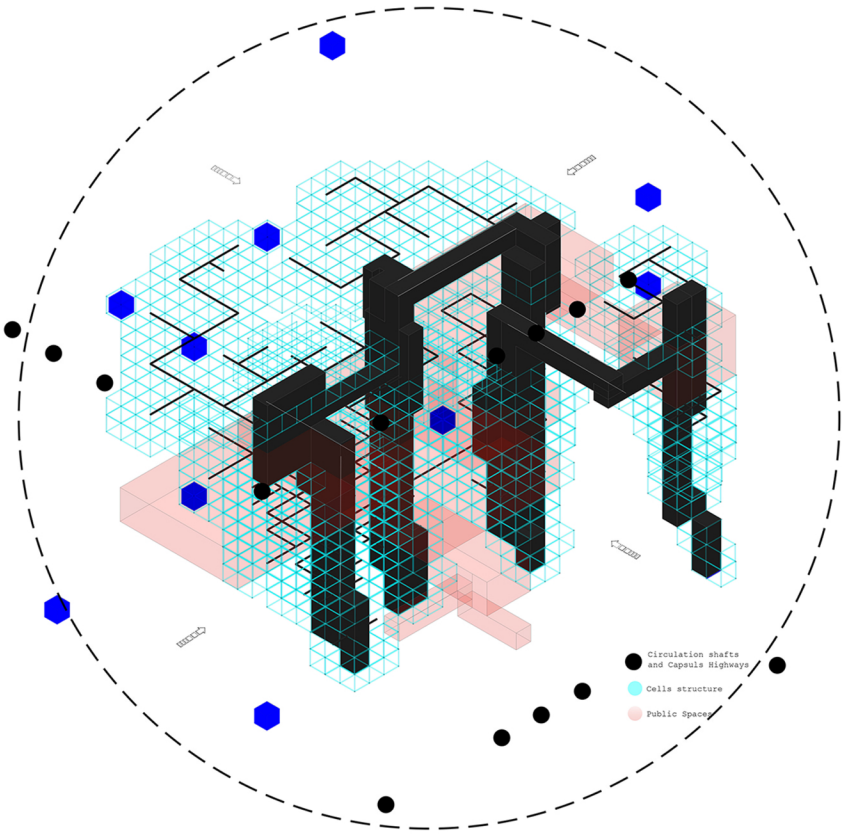
+ Meet the old city tourists



+ Meet the old city tourists

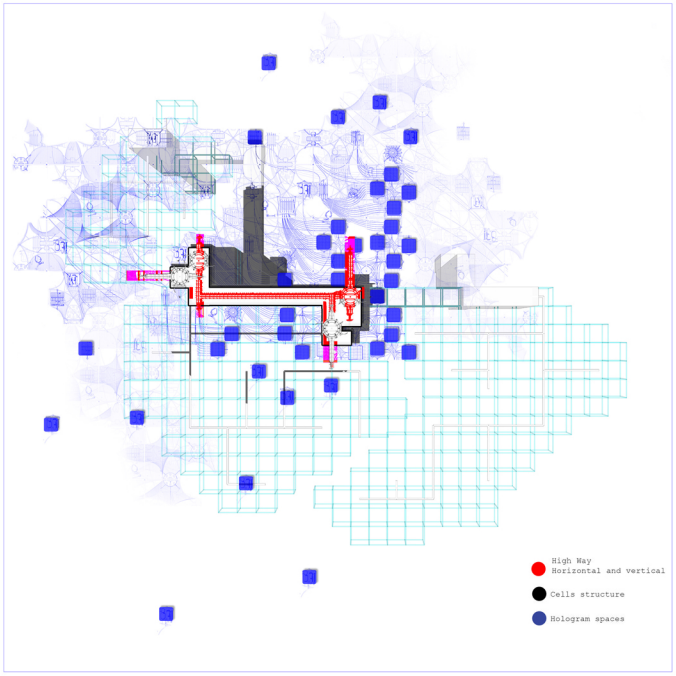


+ Meet the machine / private access



system plans from top to bottom, every level is 5.00m high

://01



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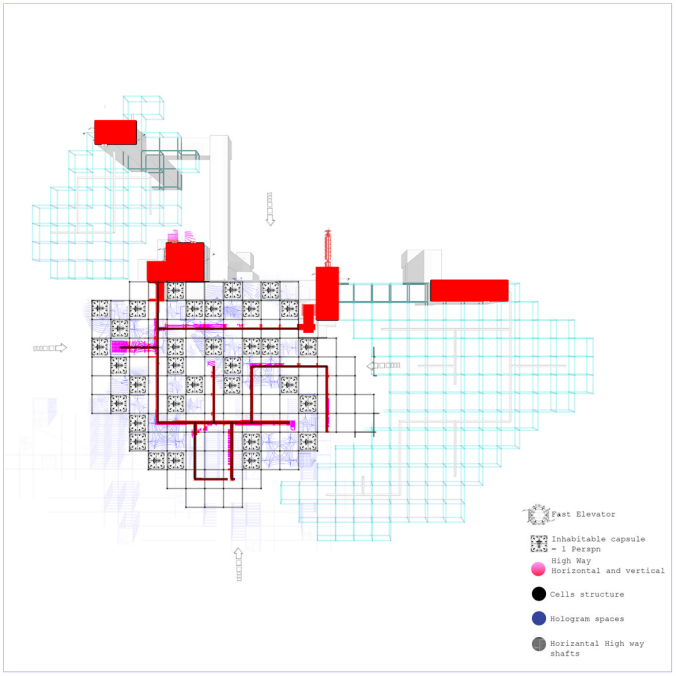

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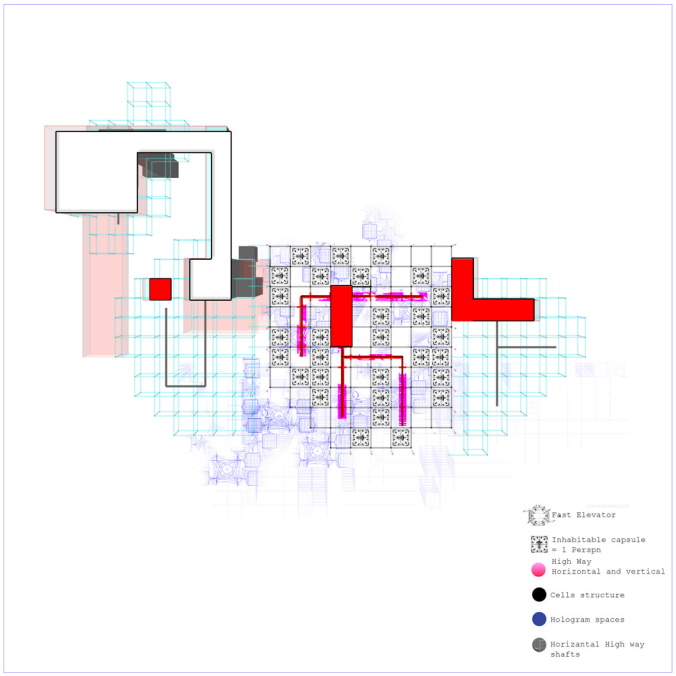

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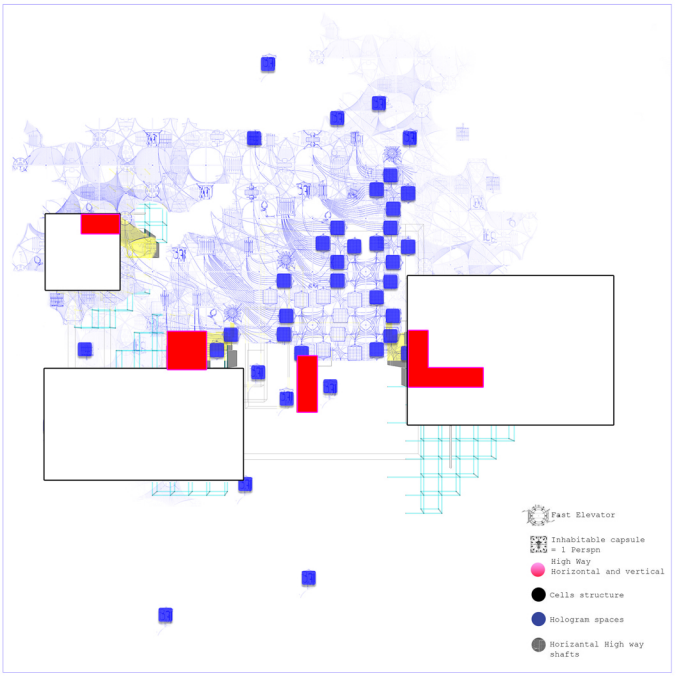

system plans from top to bottom, every level is 5.00m high

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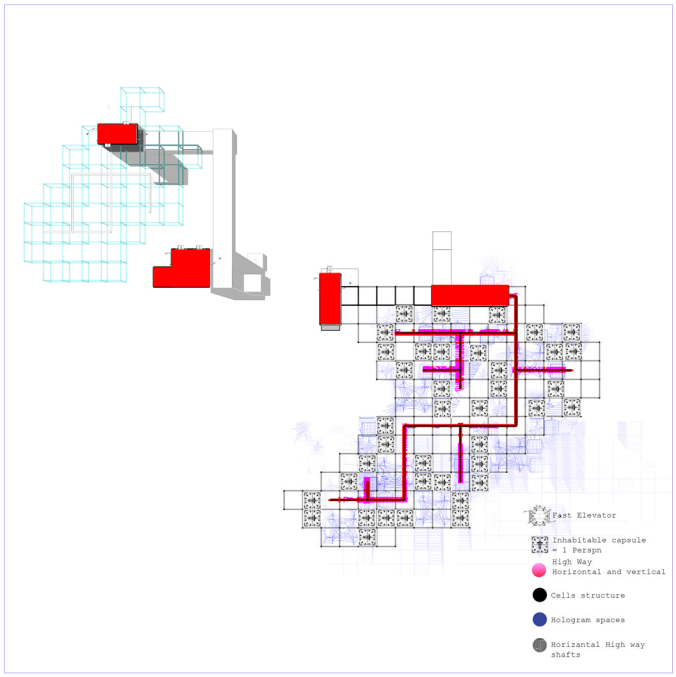

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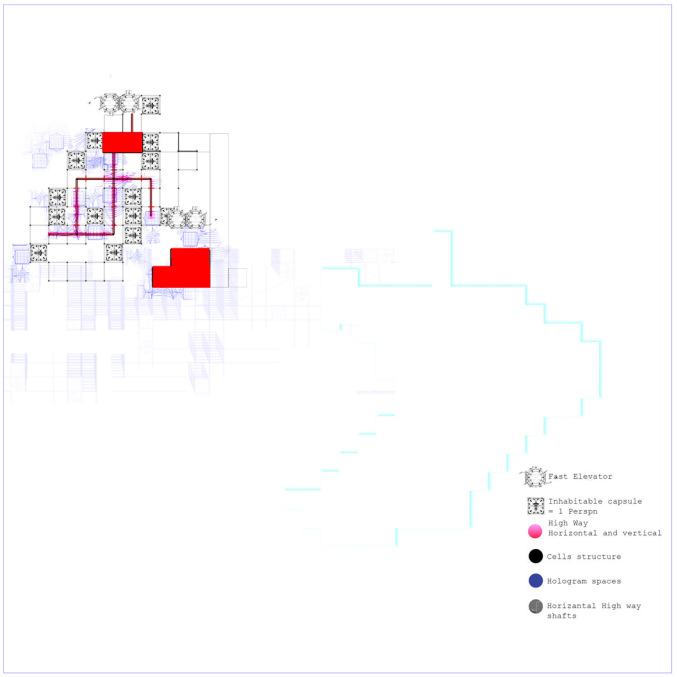

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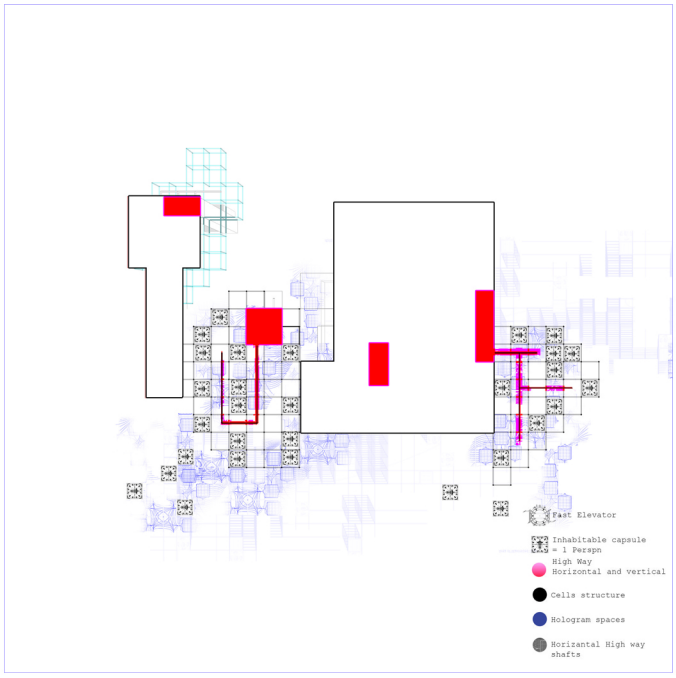

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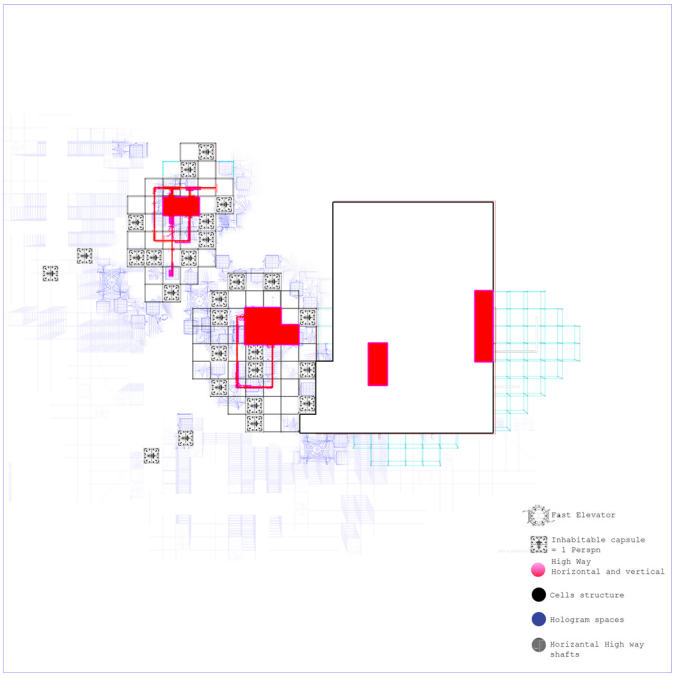

system plans from top to bottom, every level is 5.00m high

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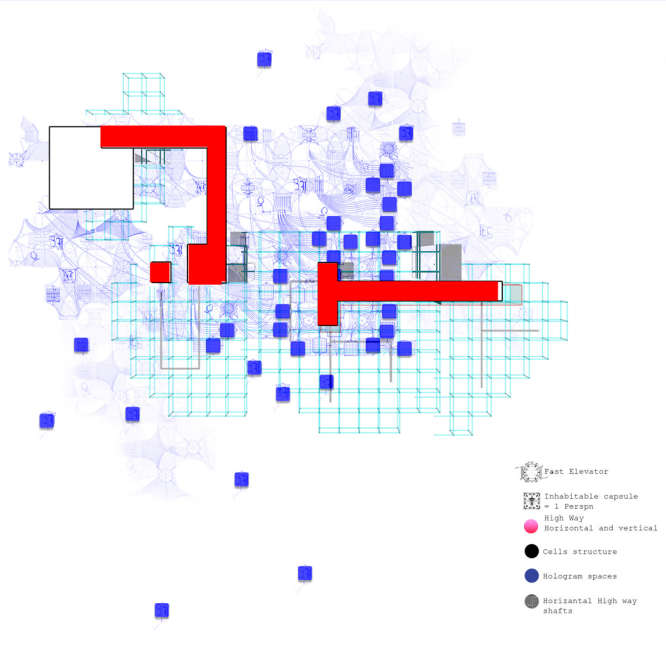

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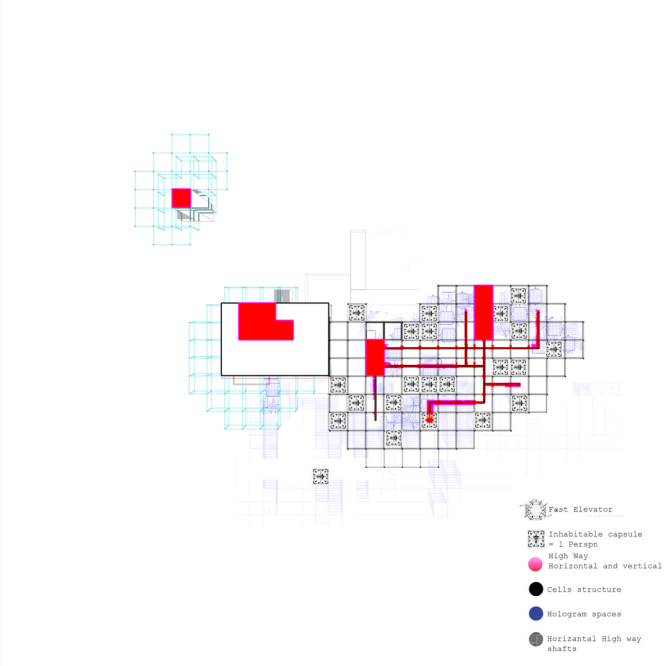

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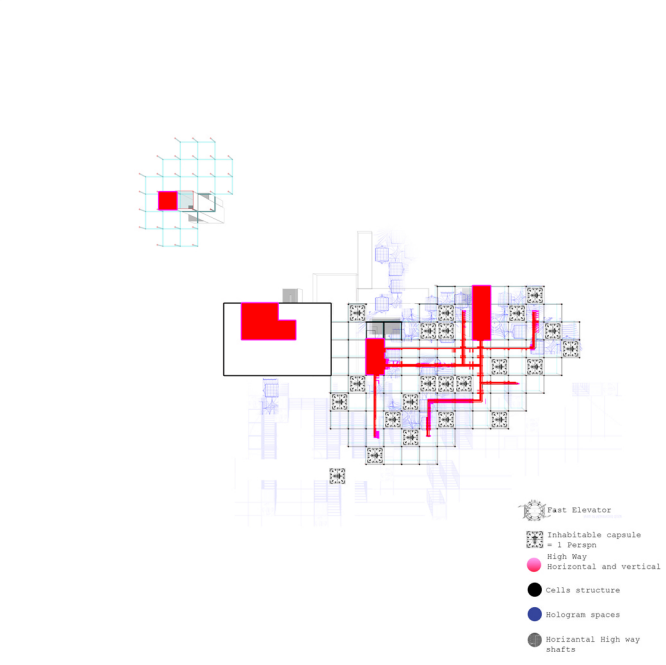

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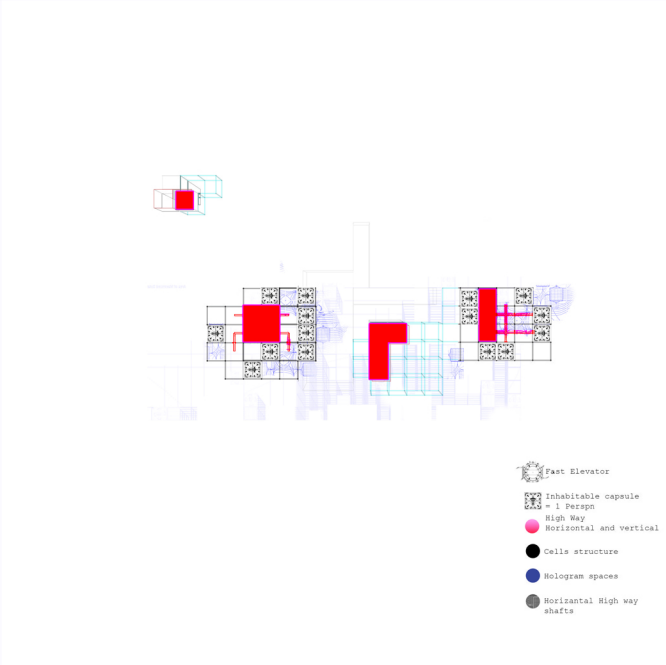

system plans from top to bottom, every level is 5.00m high

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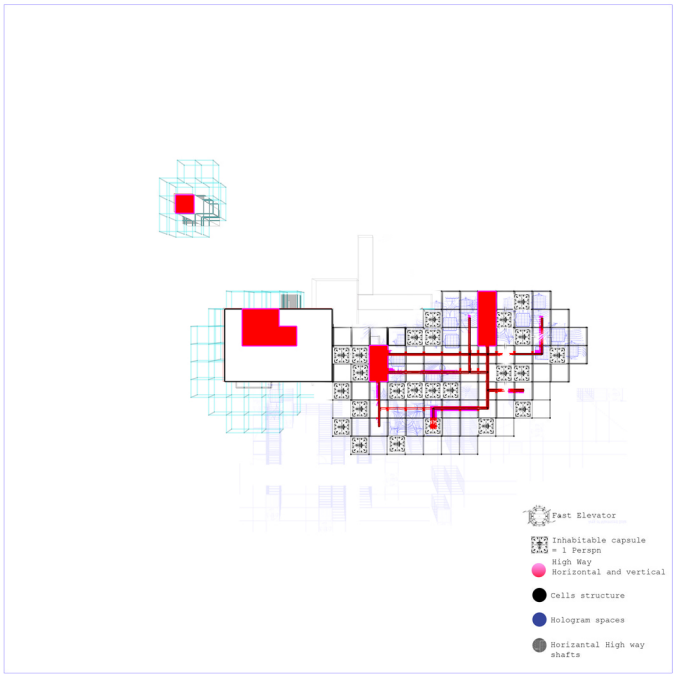

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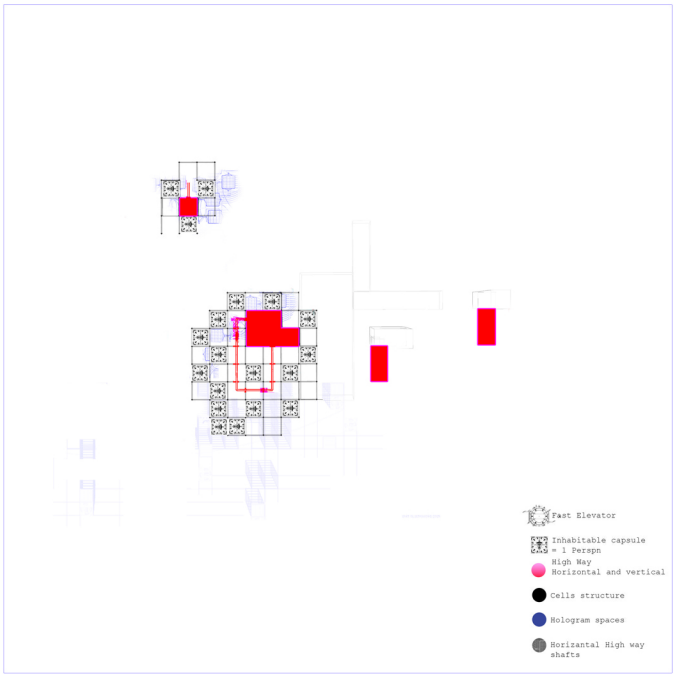

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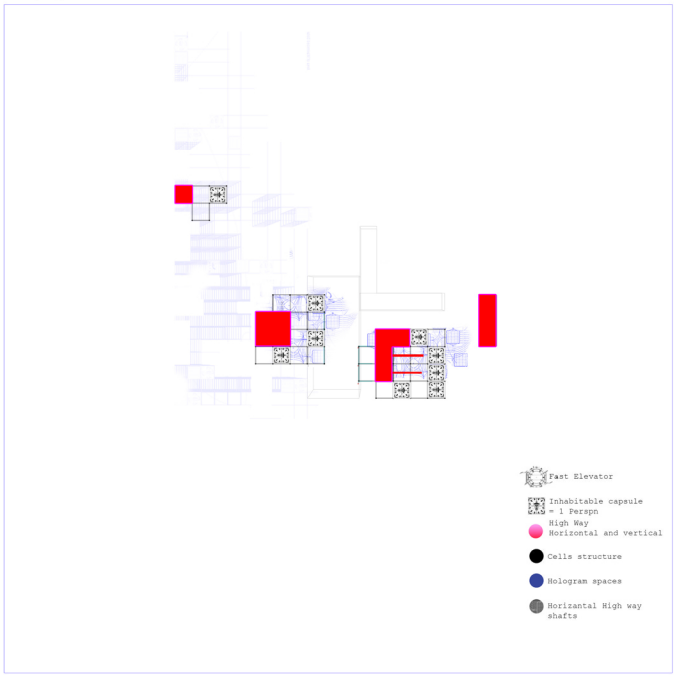

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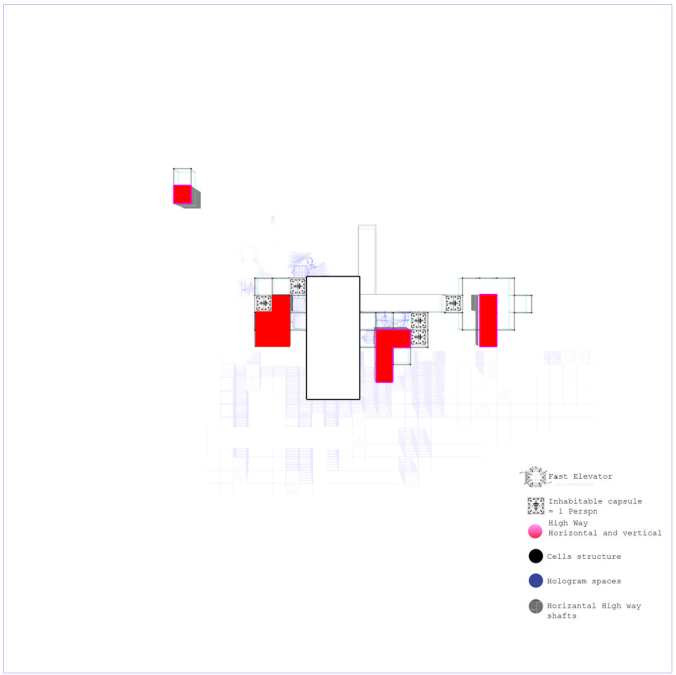

system plans from top to bottom, every level is 5.00m high

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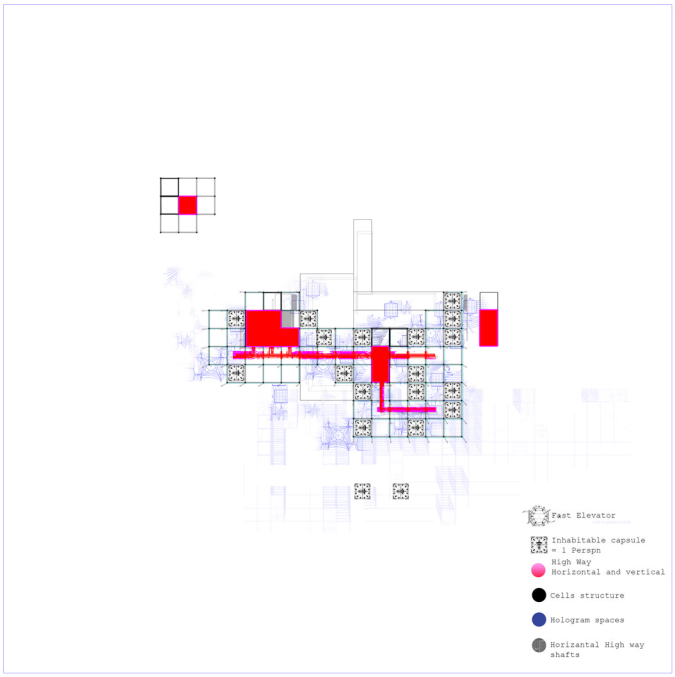

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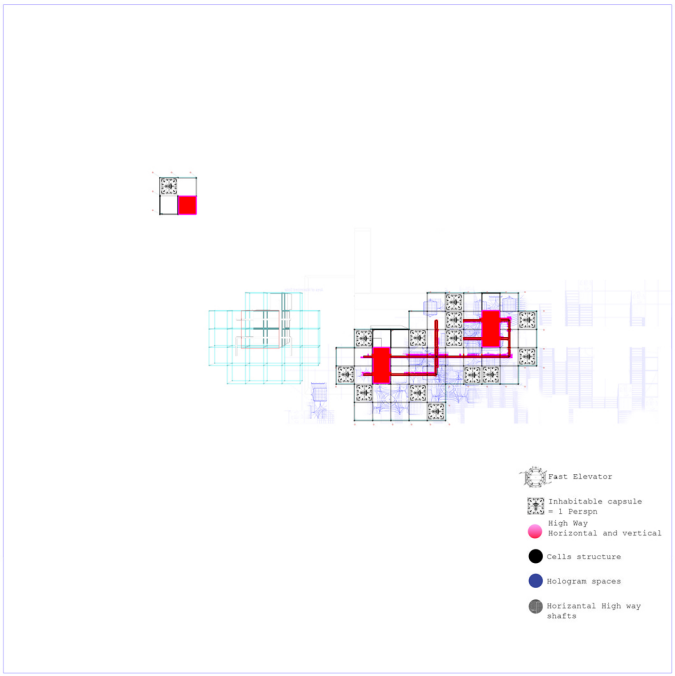

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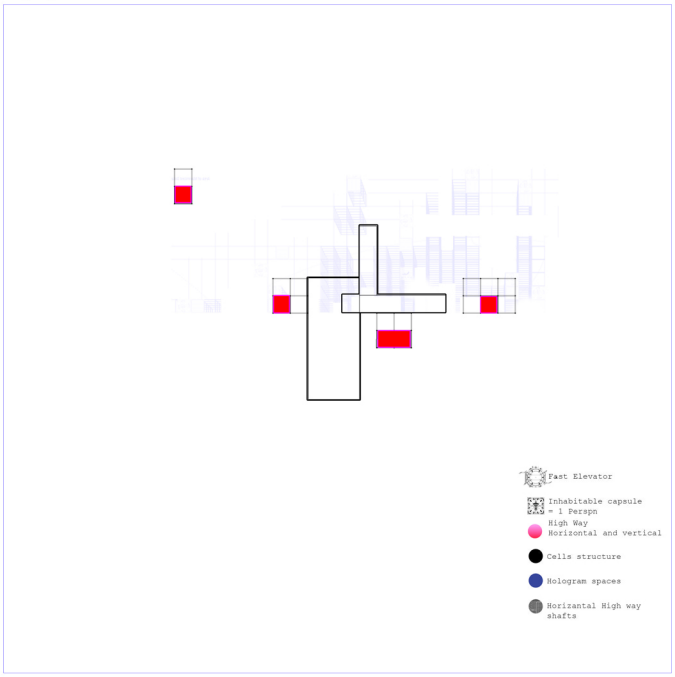

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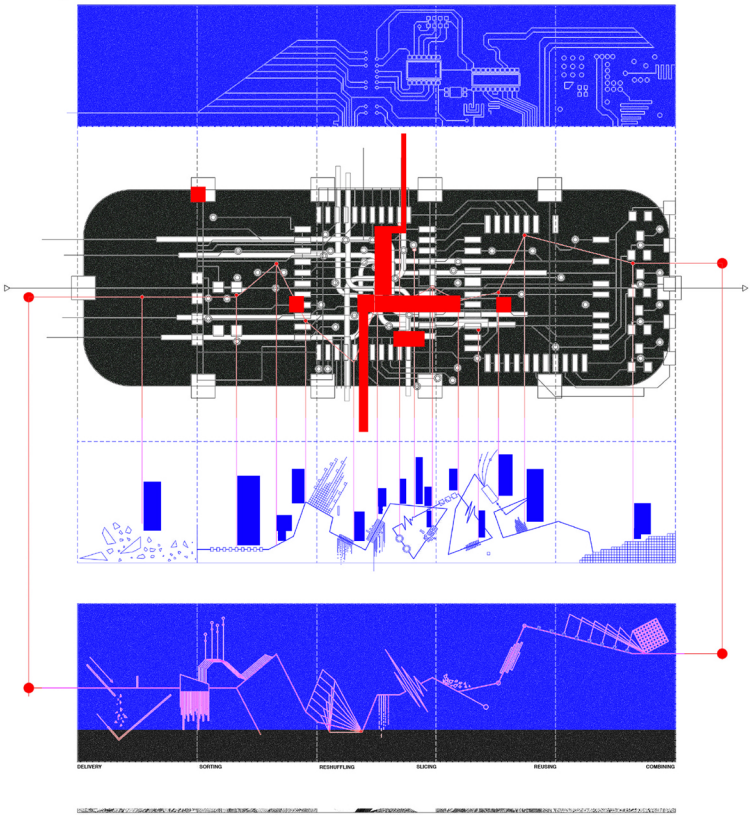
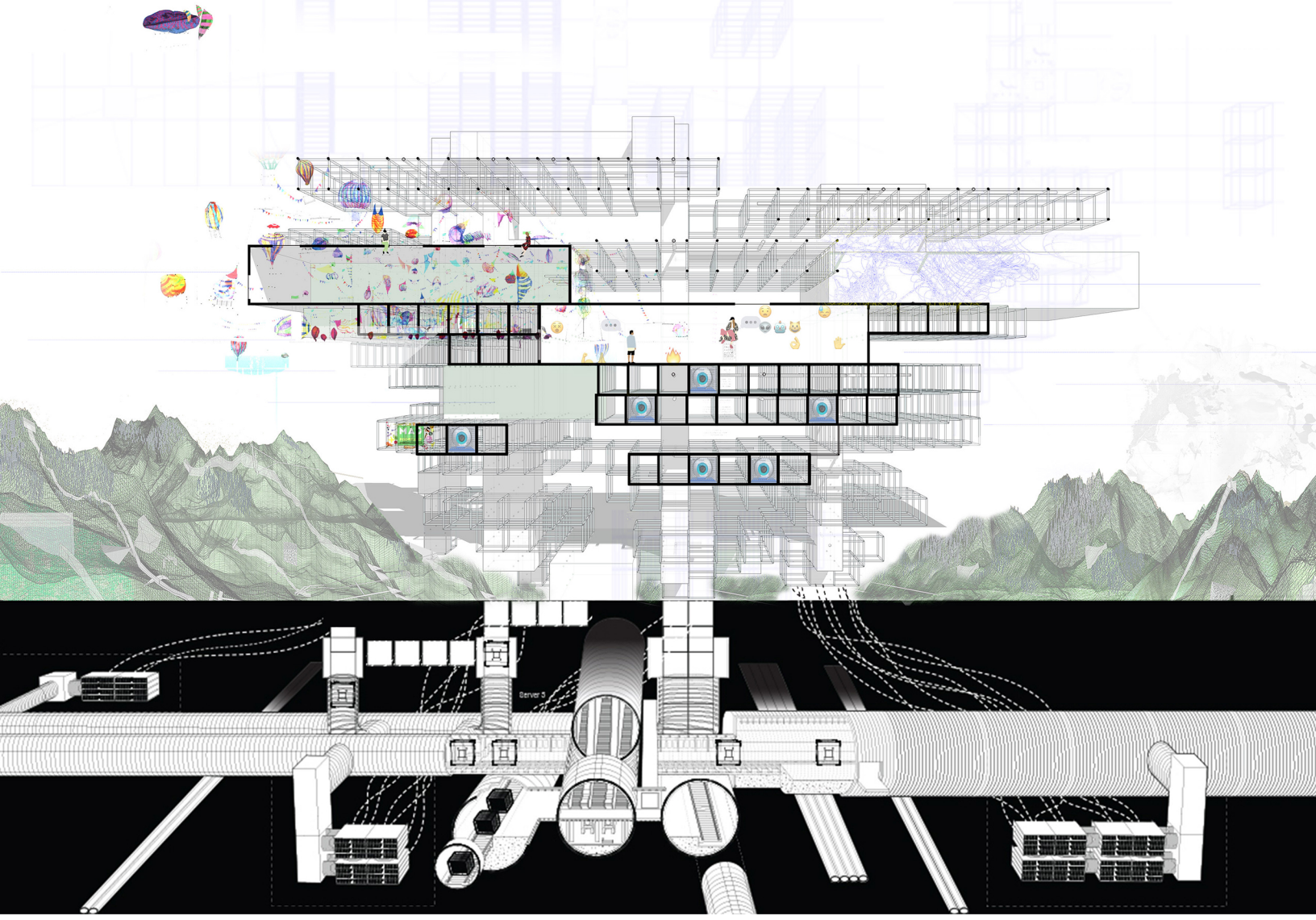
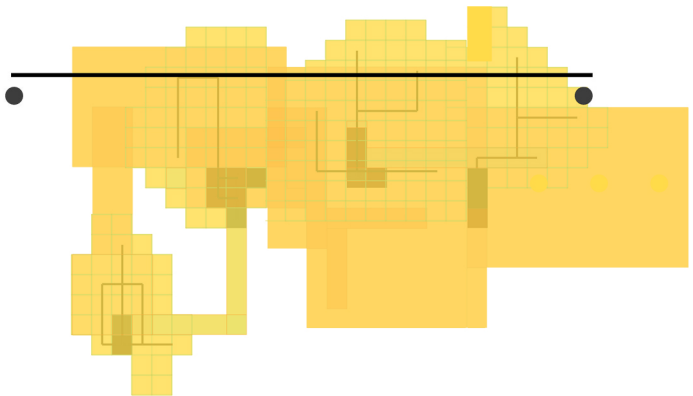
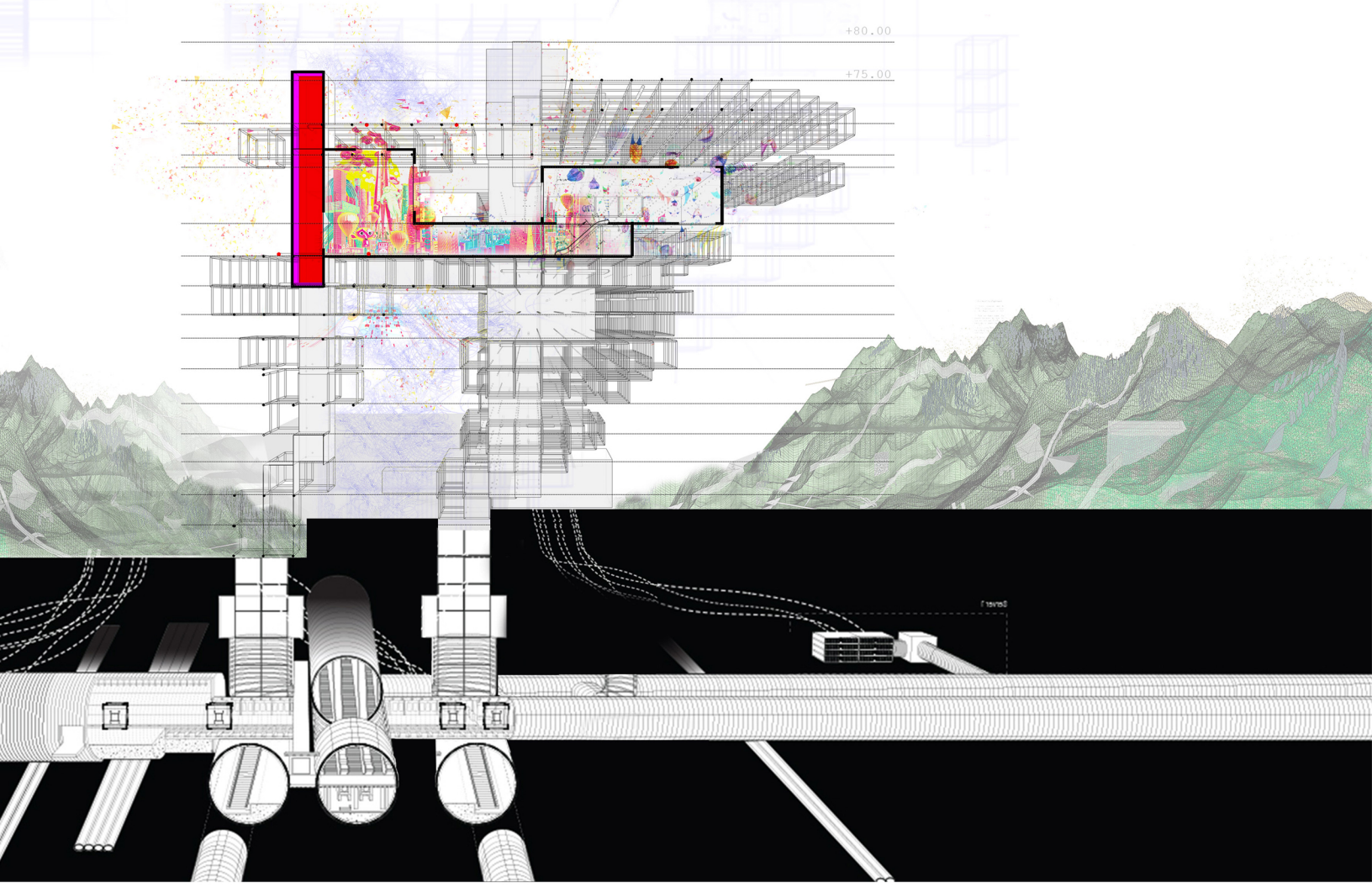


Building section01





Building section02



Building Elevation 01 + 02

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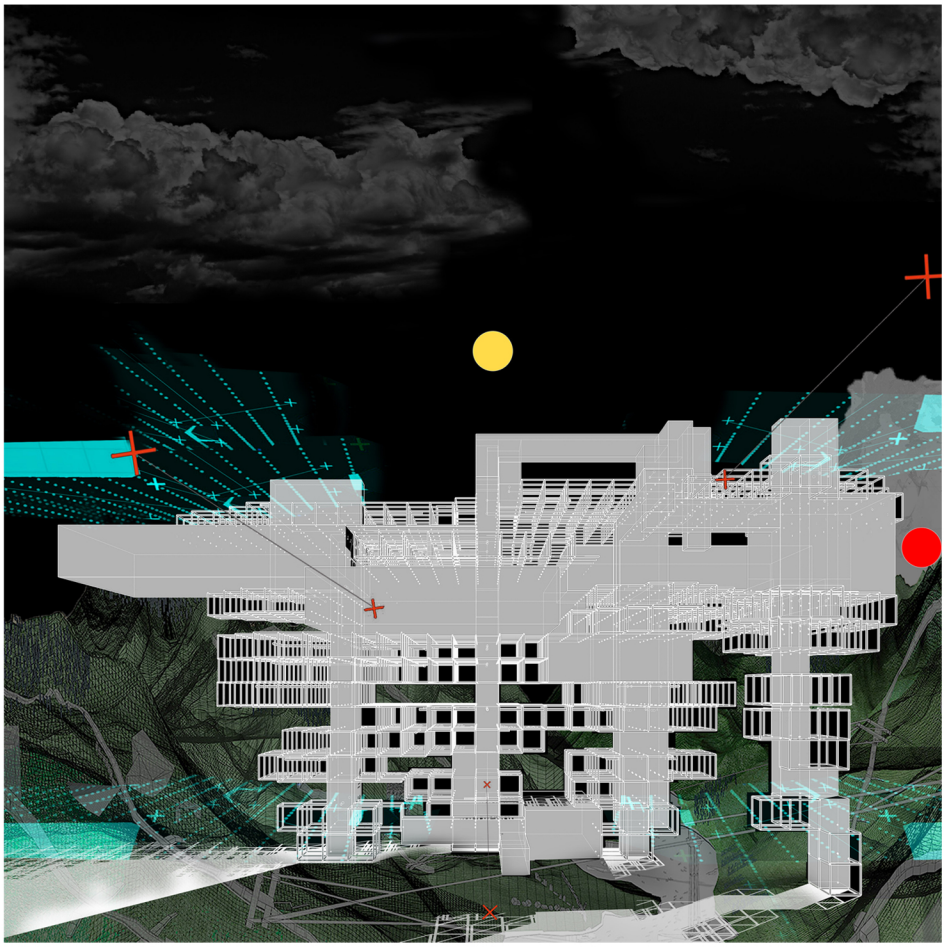

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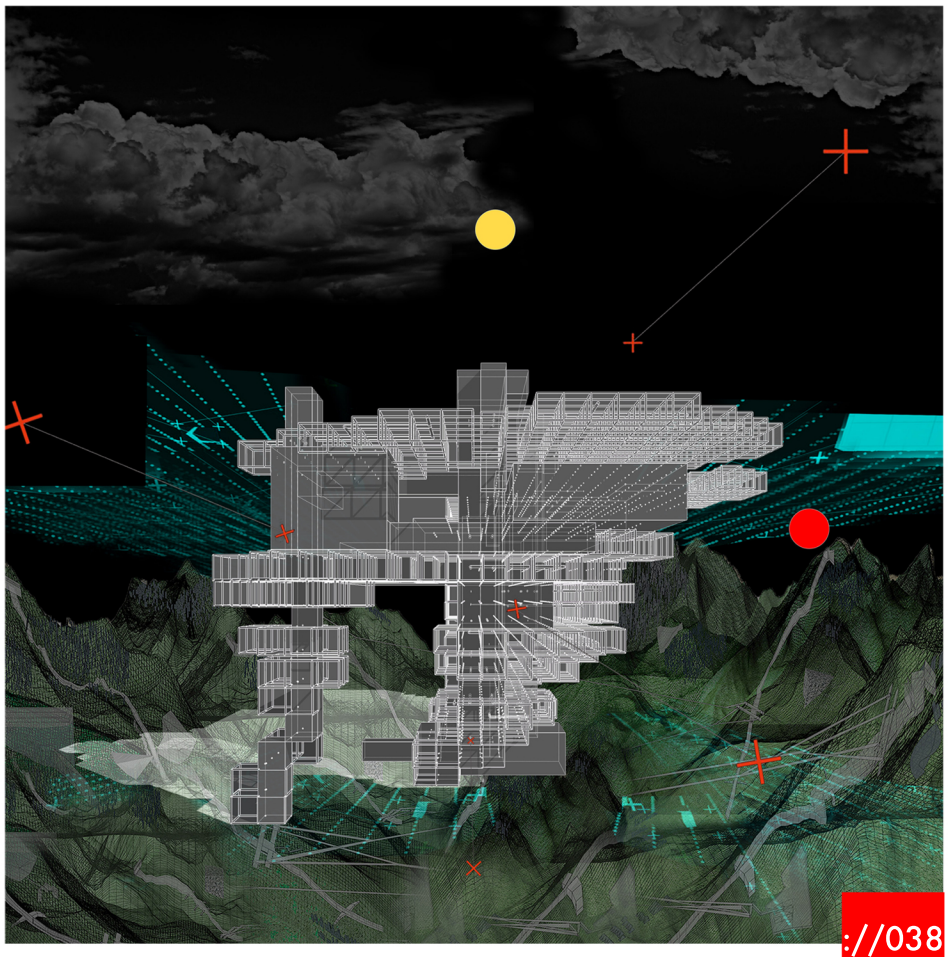

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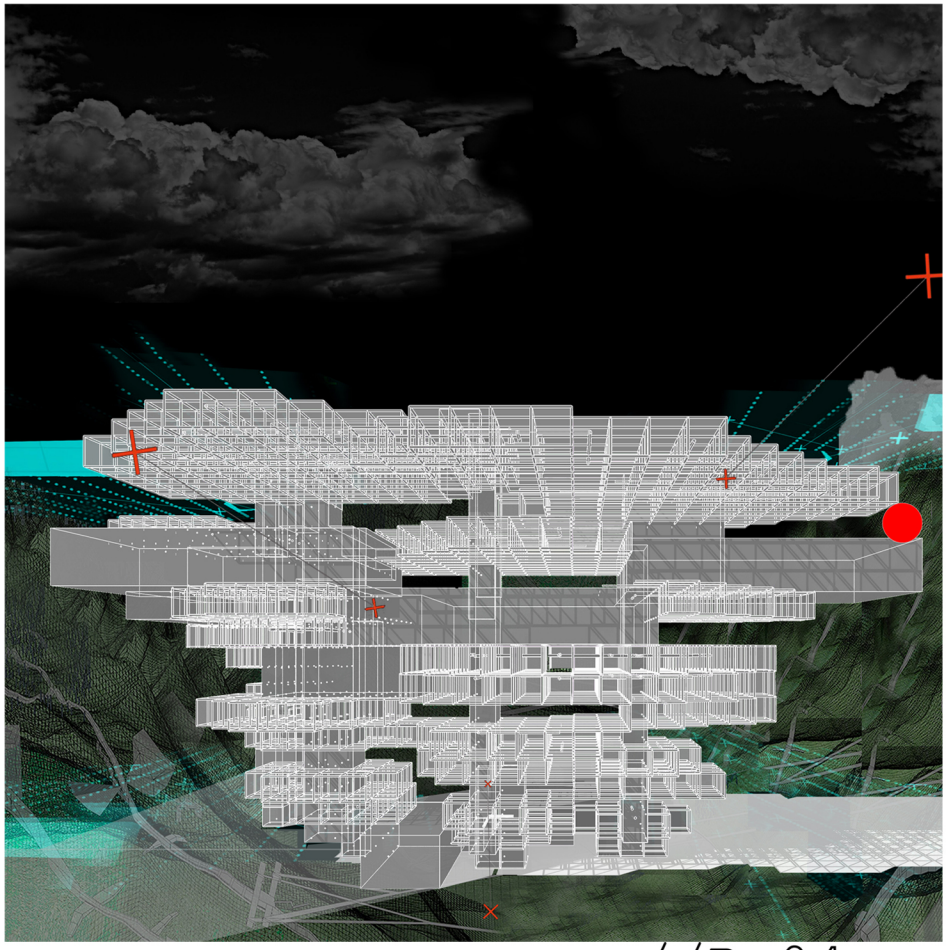

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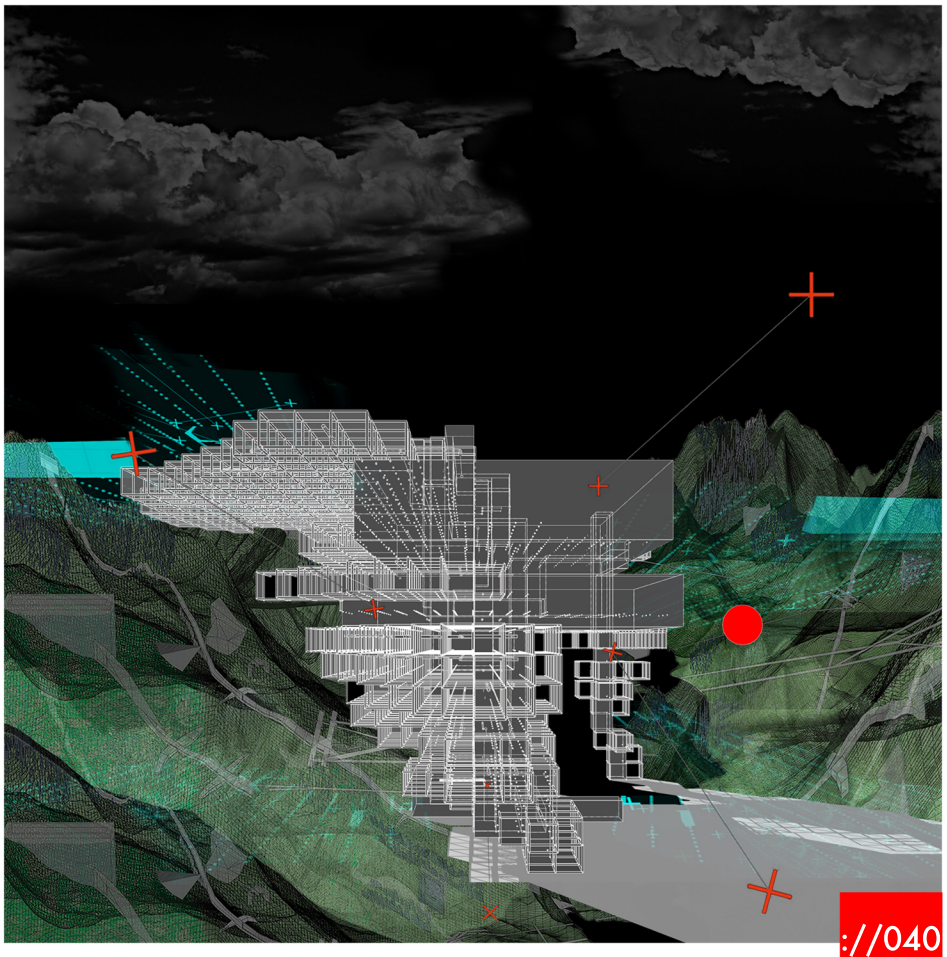
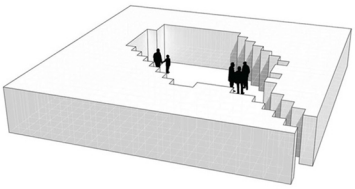
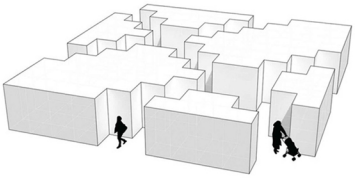
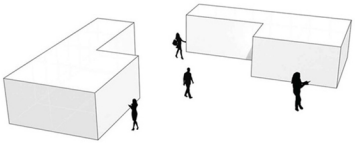


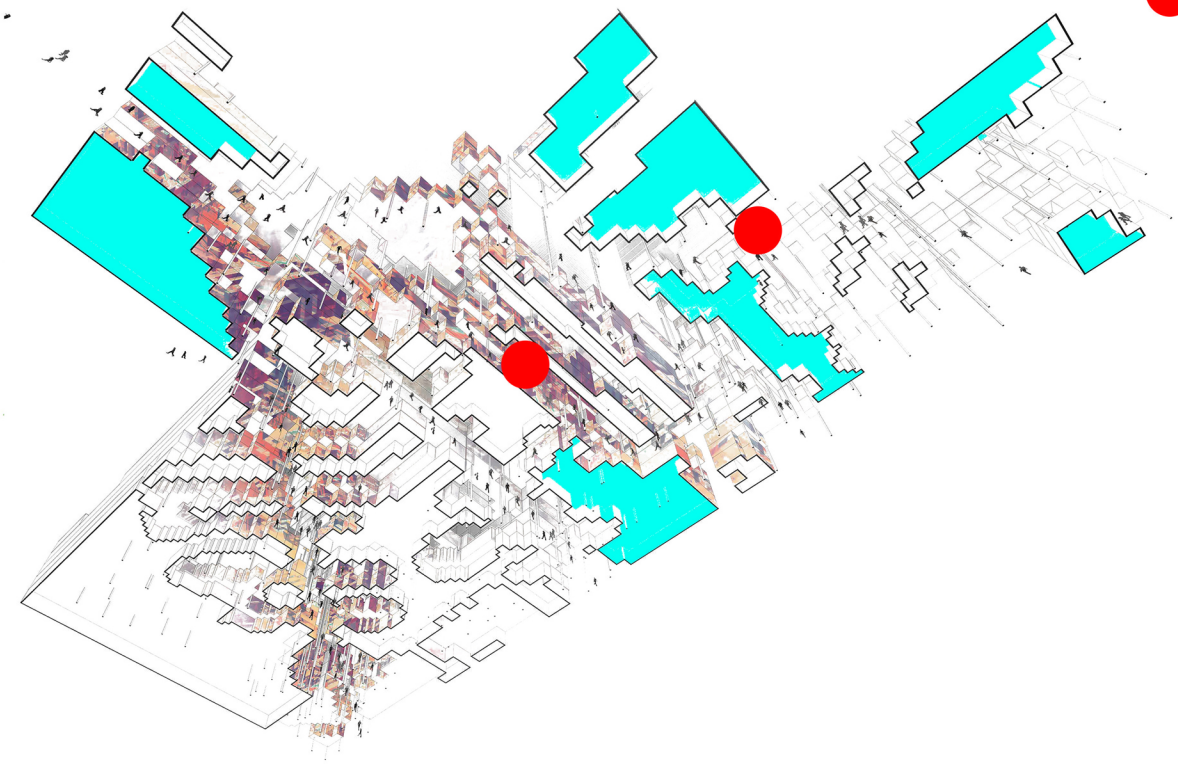
:// Growth expectations

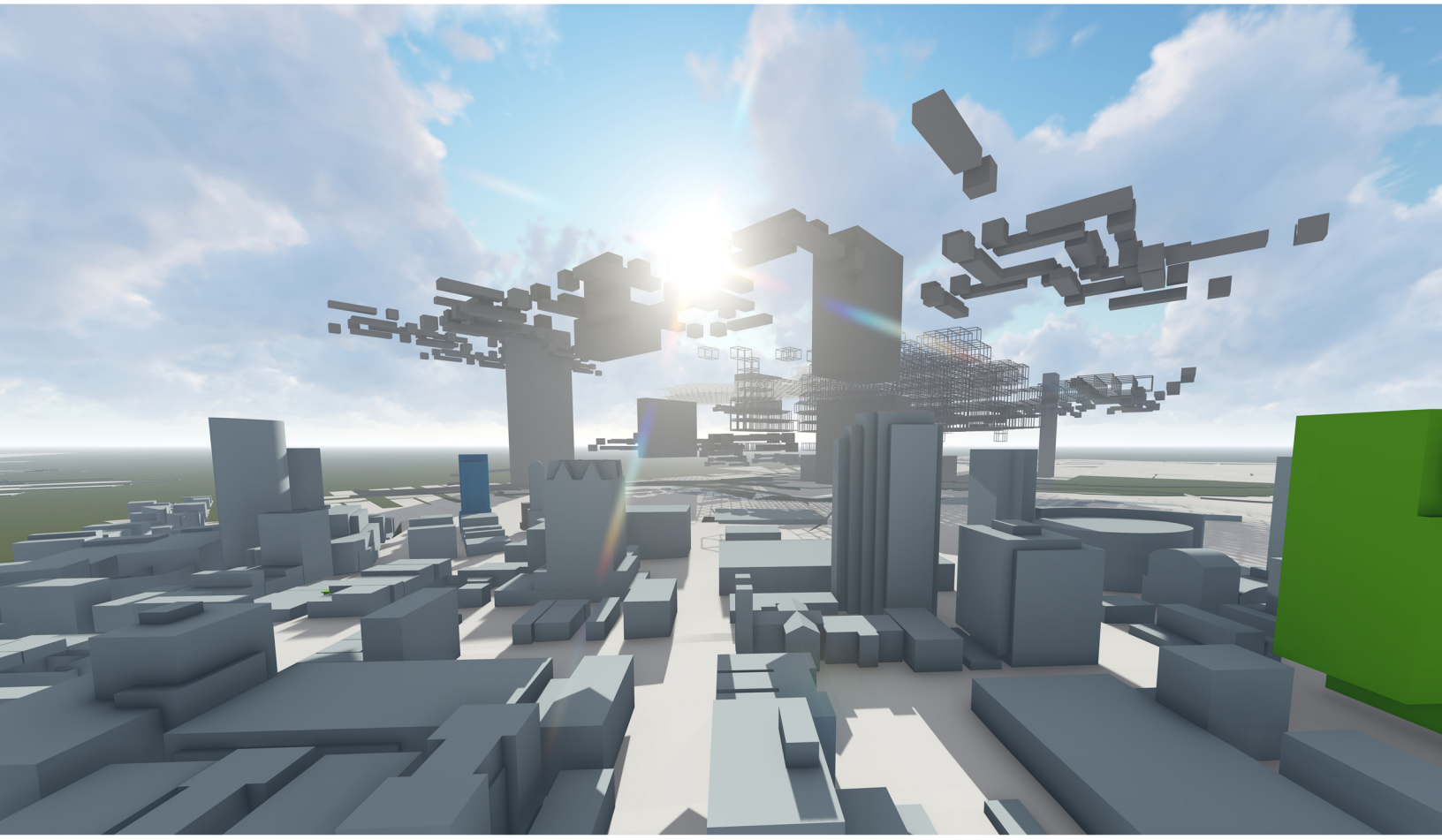
According to the increase of Public domain after developing relationships with locals the holographic meeting spaces will eventually become less and the increase of the meeting lobbies will become more.

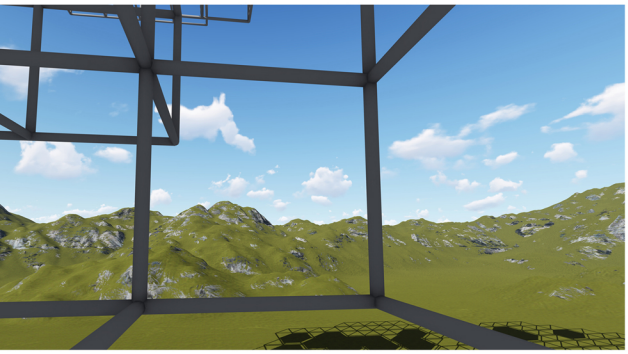


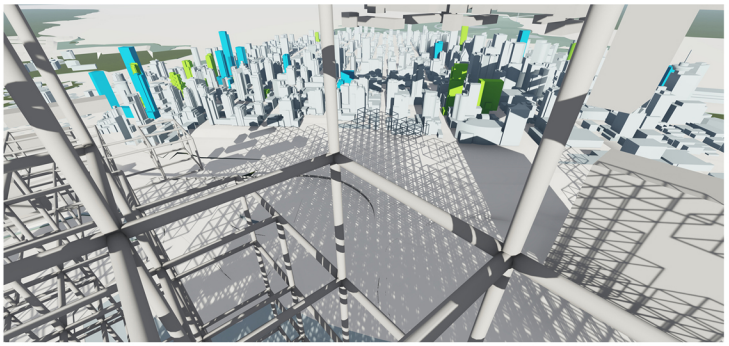






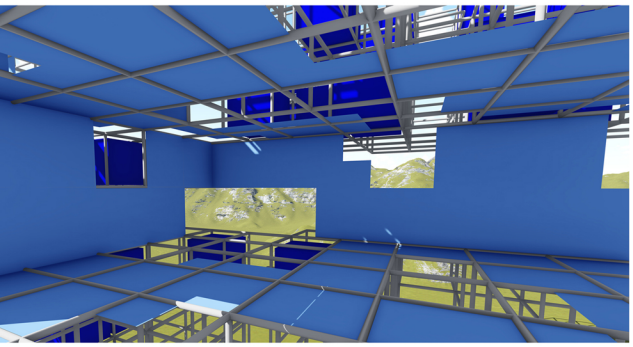


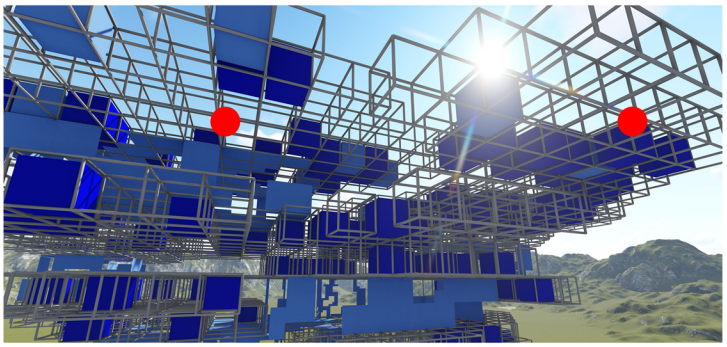


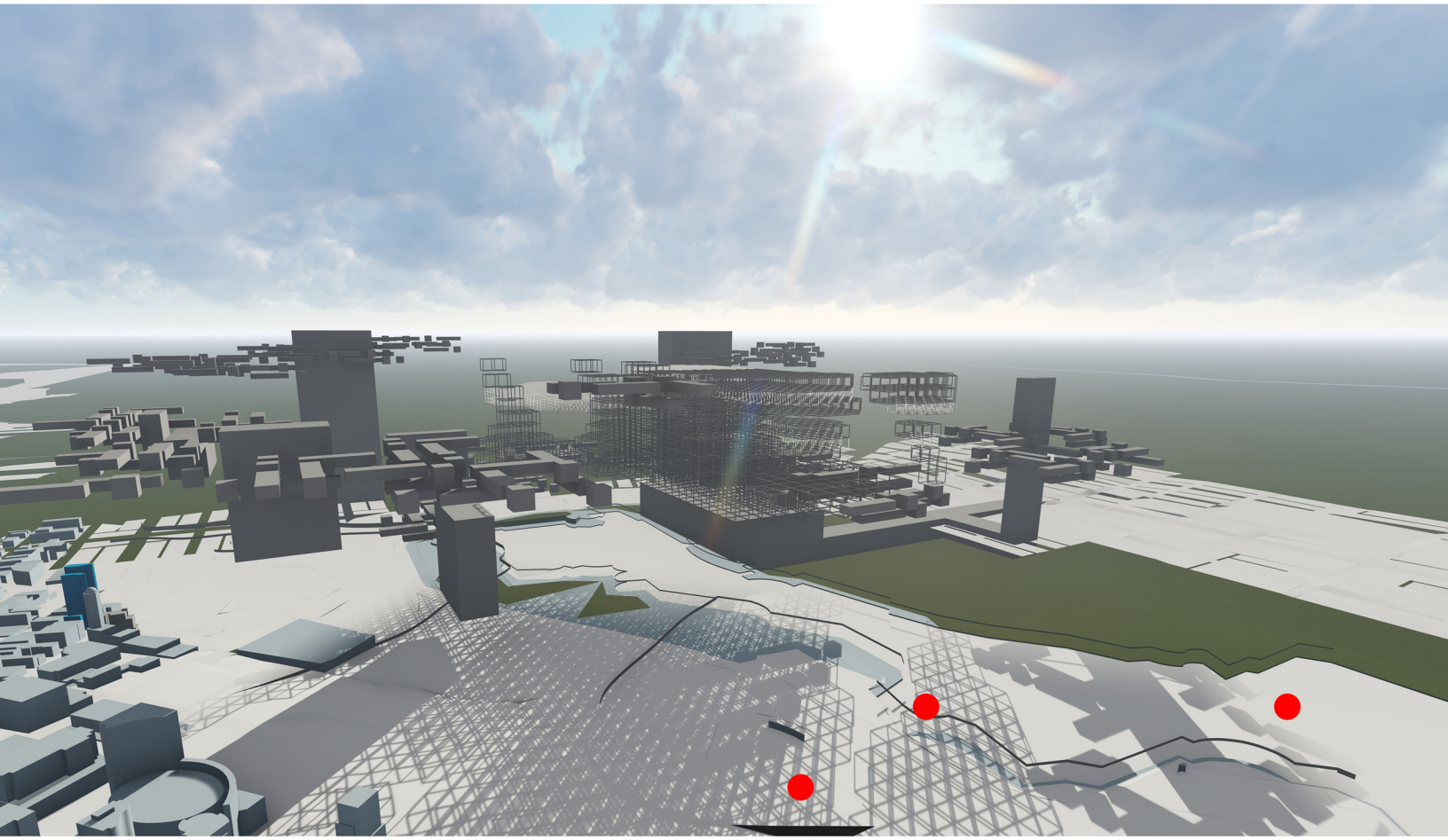


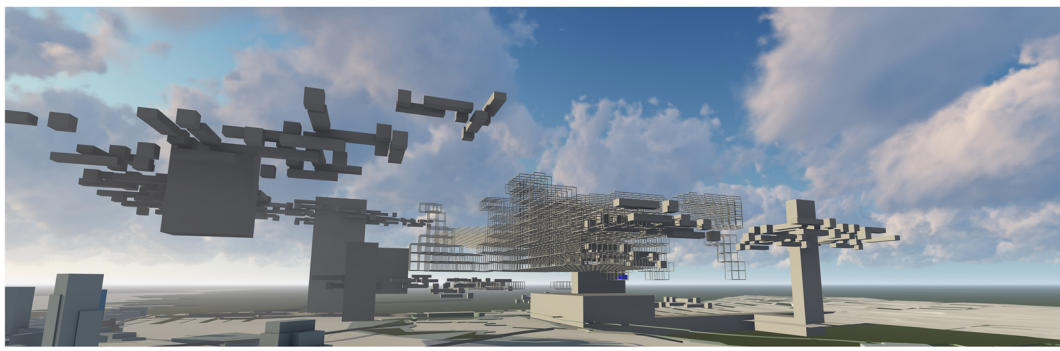




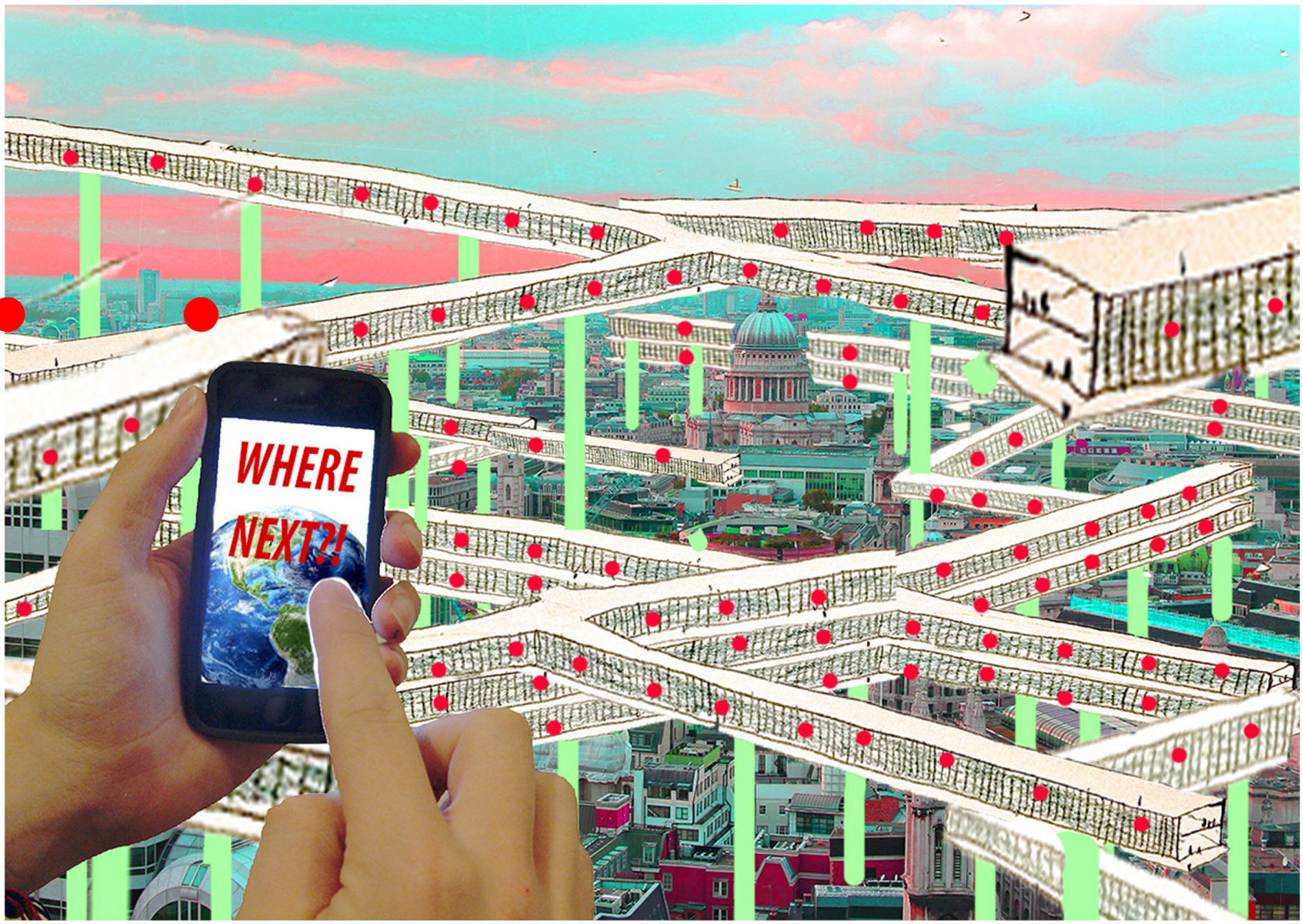











WHERE
NEXT?!


Caffetteria
Gastronomia

References

- Let us mention for instance the exhibition "Utopia's Ghost: Postmodernism Reconsidered" organized in February-May 2008 by the Canadian Centre for Architecture, or Felicity Scott's book Architecture or Techno-Utopia: Politics after Modernism (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2007).

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- On Archigram and Radical architecture, see for instance Archigram (Paris: Editions du Centre Georges Pompidou, 1994); Dominique Rouillard, Superarchitecture: Le Futur de l'Architecture 1950-1970 (Paris: Editions de La Villette, 2004).

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Thank
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Rania Karamallah