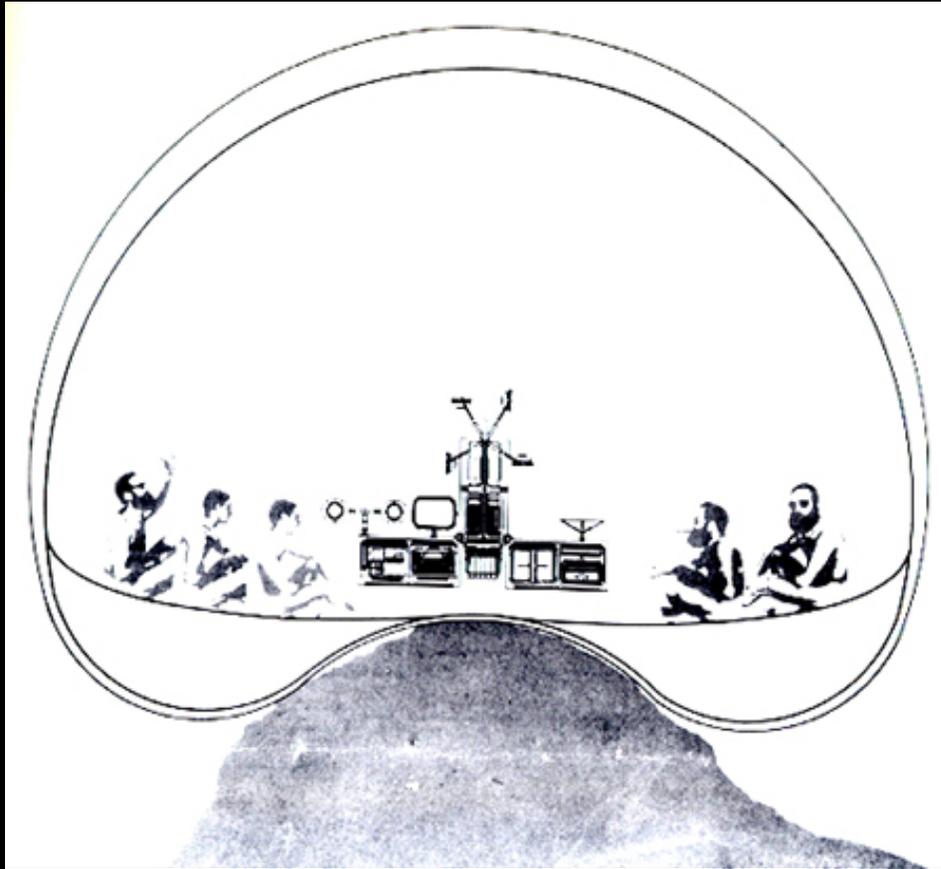




Everything is Infrastructure

Shannon Mattern
The New School



François Dallegret, un-House

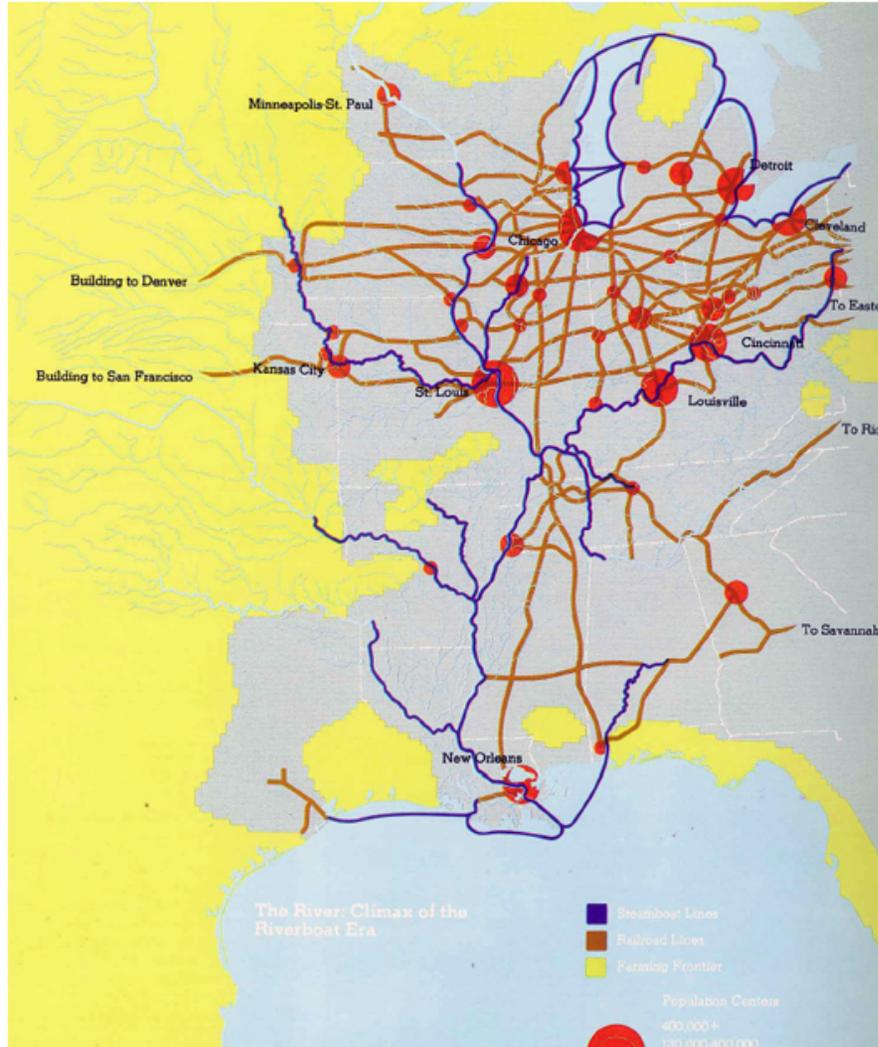
“...the most typical American way of improving the human situation has been by means of crafty and unusually compact little packages, either papered or with patent numbers, or bearing the inventor's name to a grateful posterity.”

“The quintessential gadgetry of the pioneering frontiersman had to be carried across trackless country, set down in a wild place, and left to transform that hostile environment without skilled attention.”

mammoth

September 13,
2011 – 6:00 am

"the climax of the riverboat era"



“...a small self-contained unit of high performance in relation to its size and cost, whose function is to transform some undifferentiated set of circumstances to a condition nearer human desires. The minimum of skill is required in its installation and use, and it is independent of any physical or social infrastructure beyond that by which it may be ordered from catalogue and delivered to its prospective user.”



Via Klaustoon: <http://bit.ly/pWqaer>

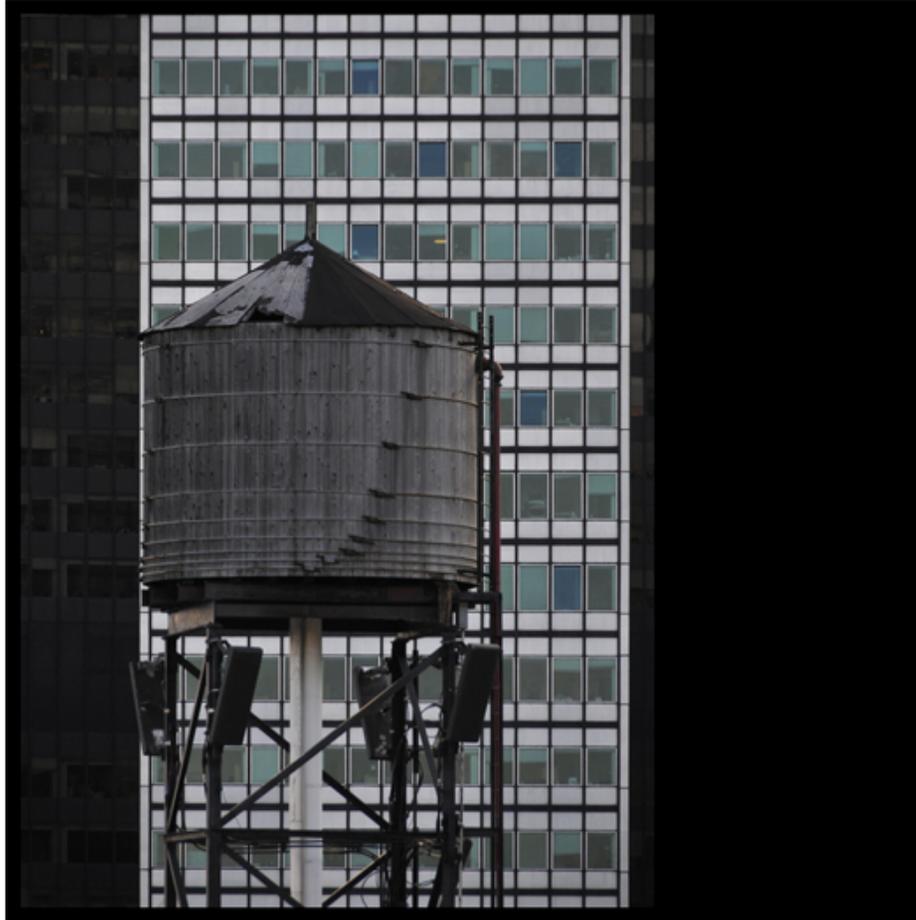


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mammoth

« a "cyborg planet"
I was the only one there »

a preliminary atlas of gizmo landscapes



[A water tank stands in Brooklyn, festooned with cellular antennas, photographed by flickr user [Dreamer7112](#).]

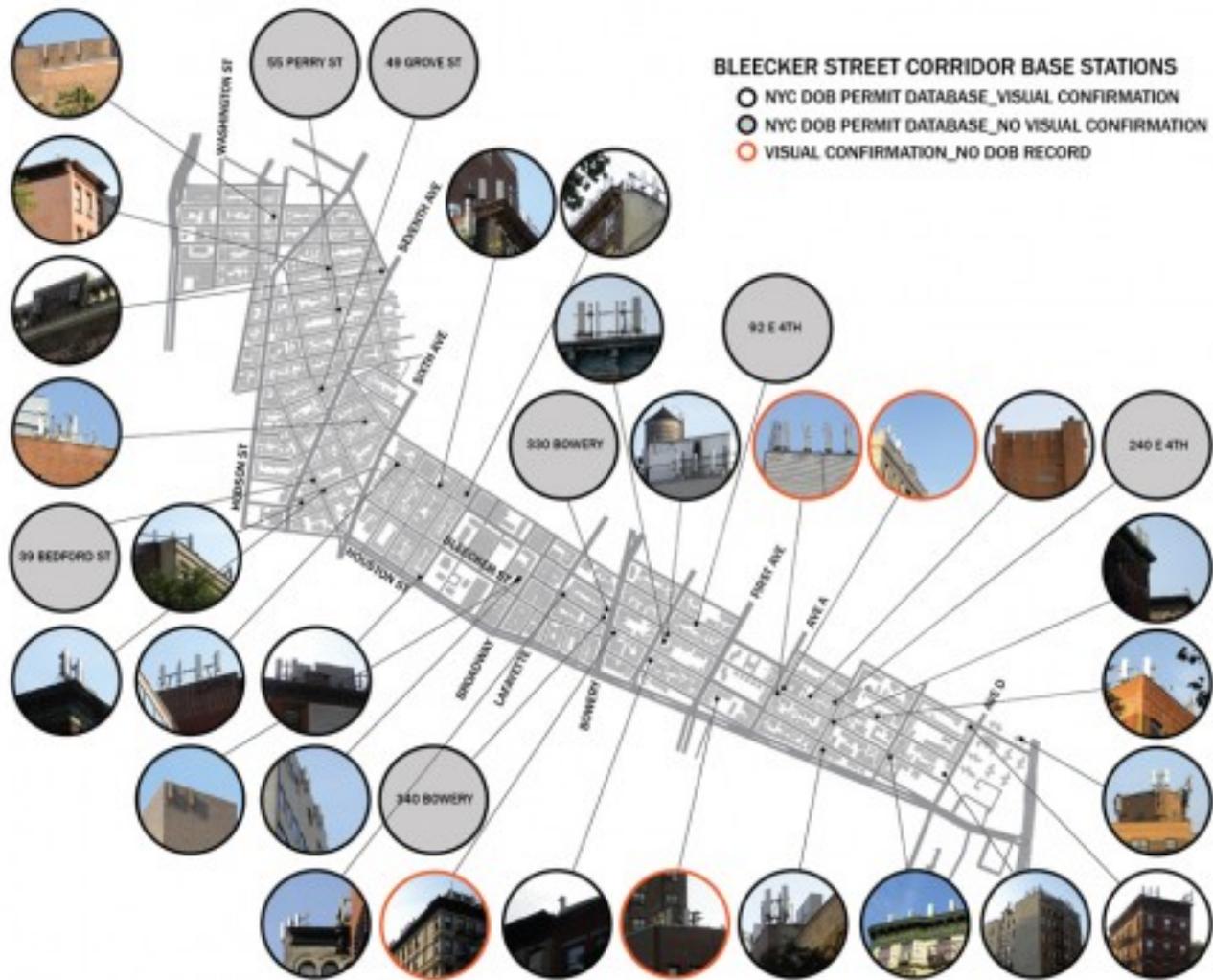
<http://bit.ly/9qFCkO>



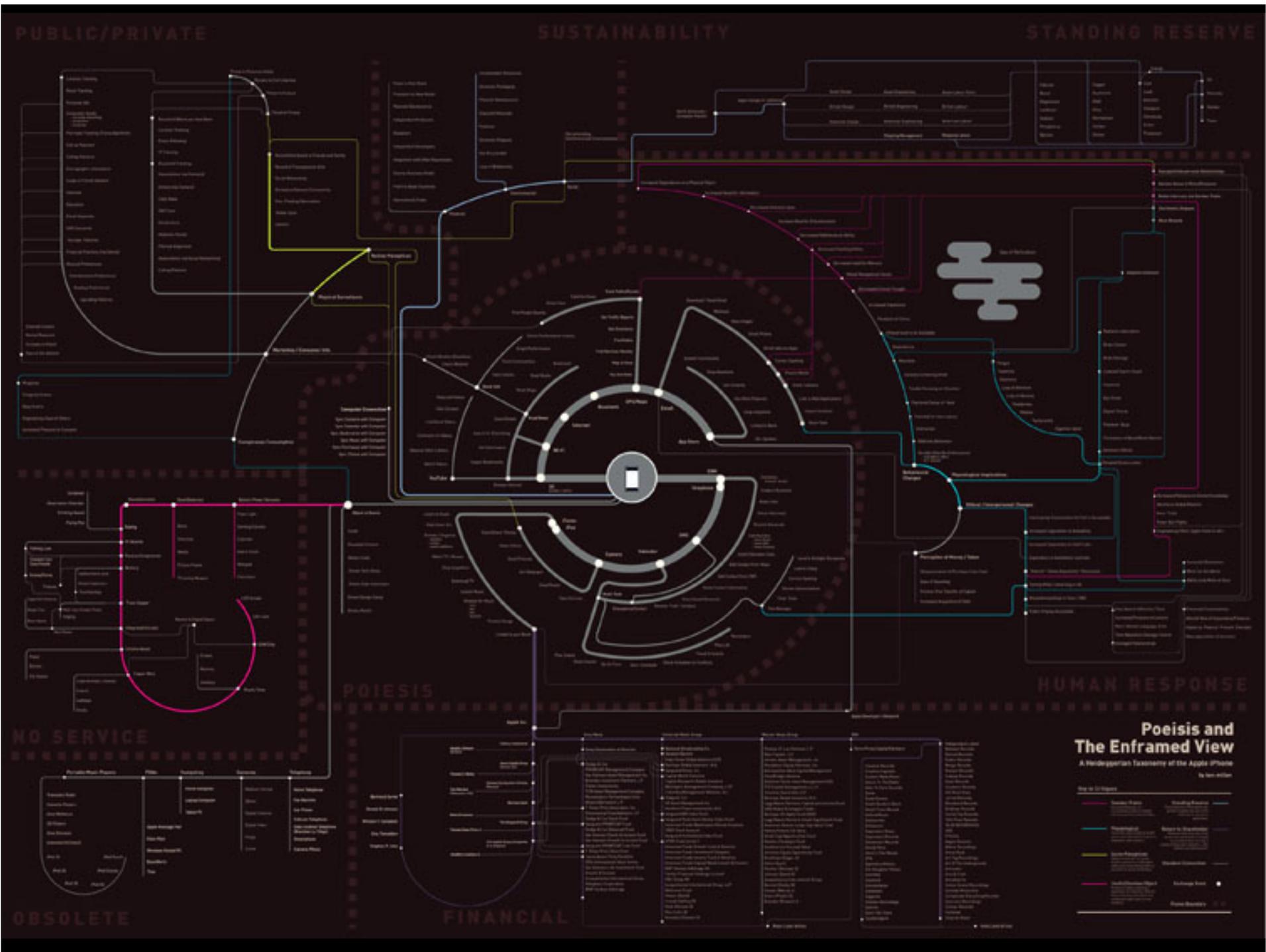




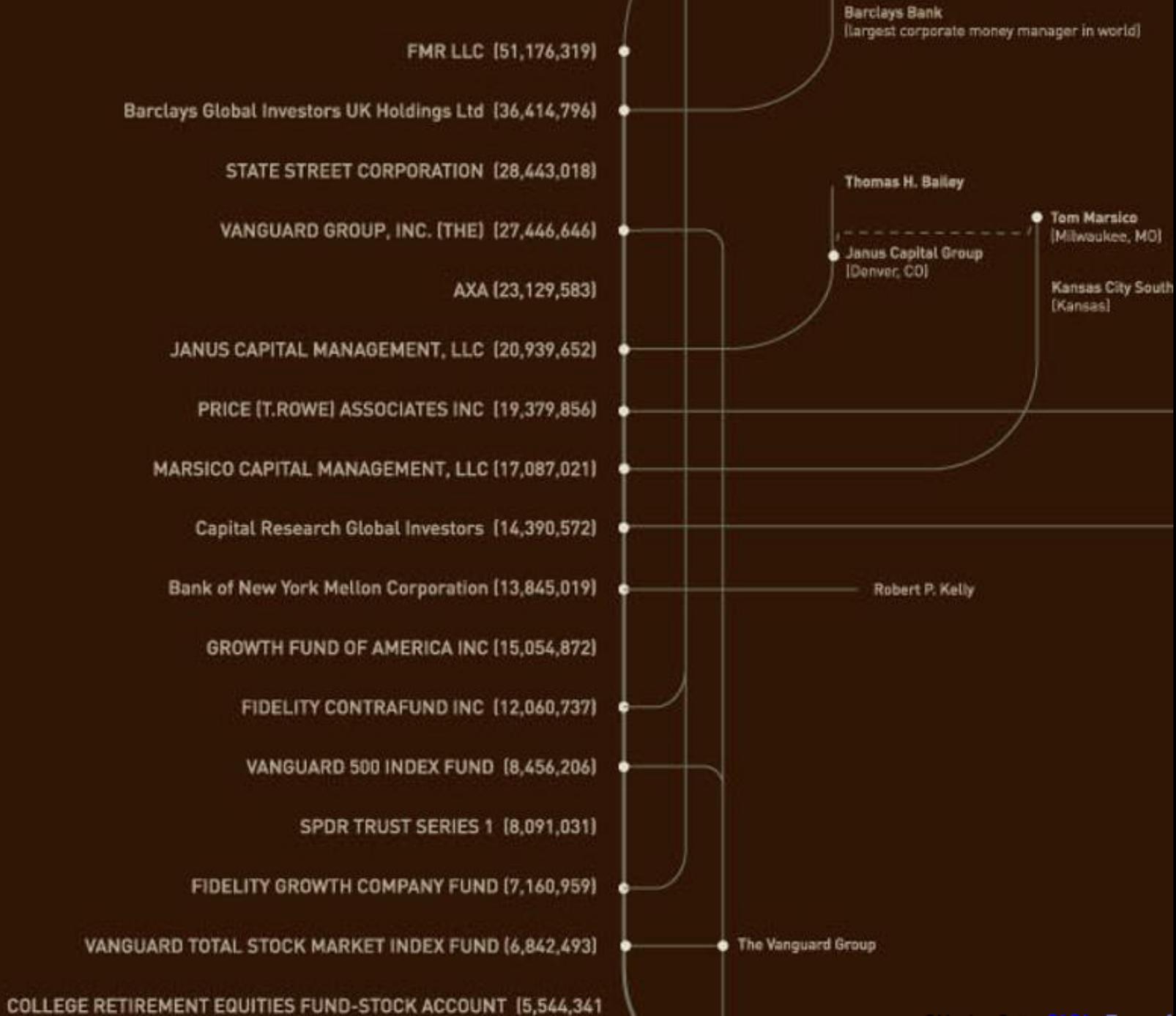


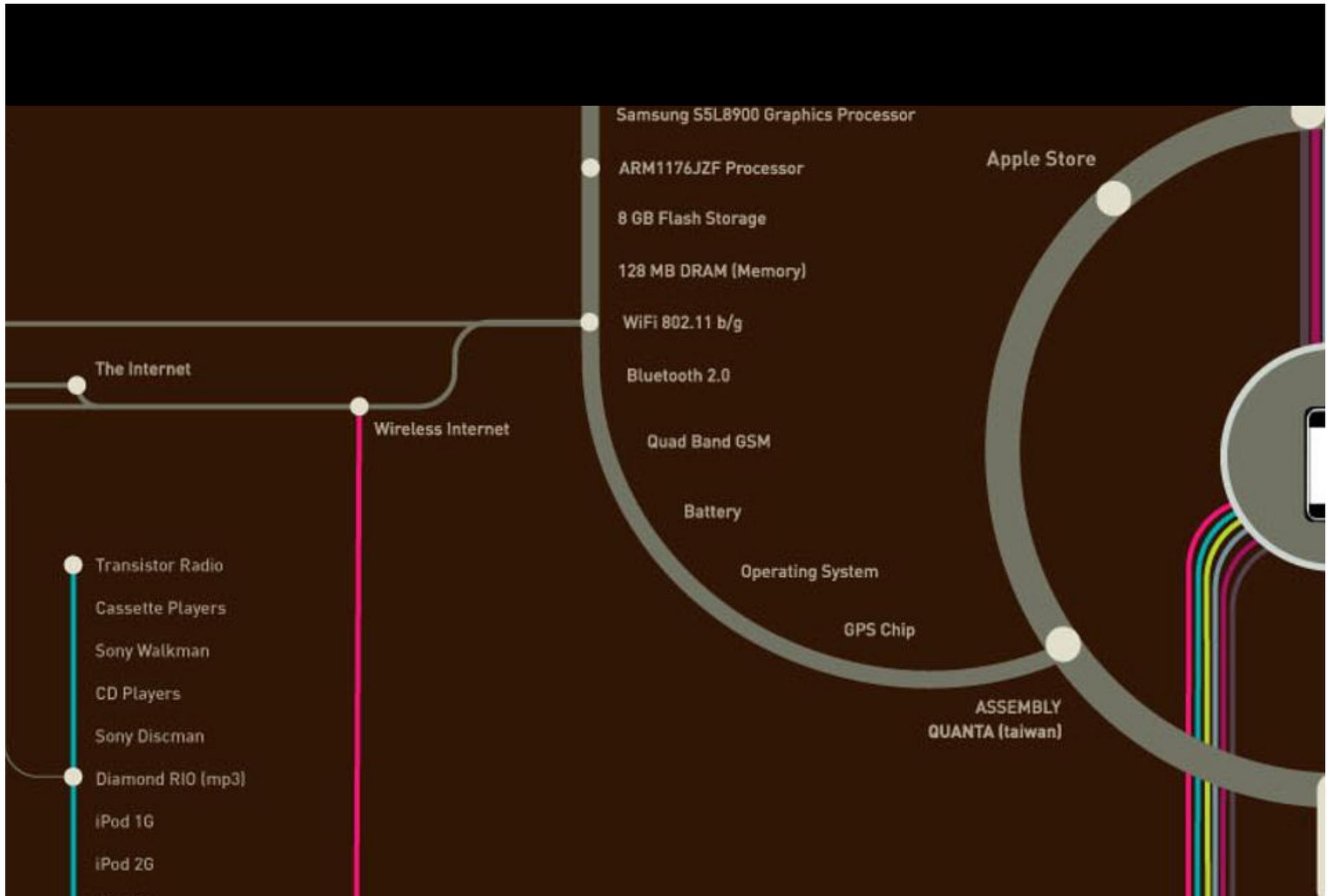


Michael Chen & Justin Snider, via *Urban Omnibus*: <http://bit.ly/r7tUeZ>





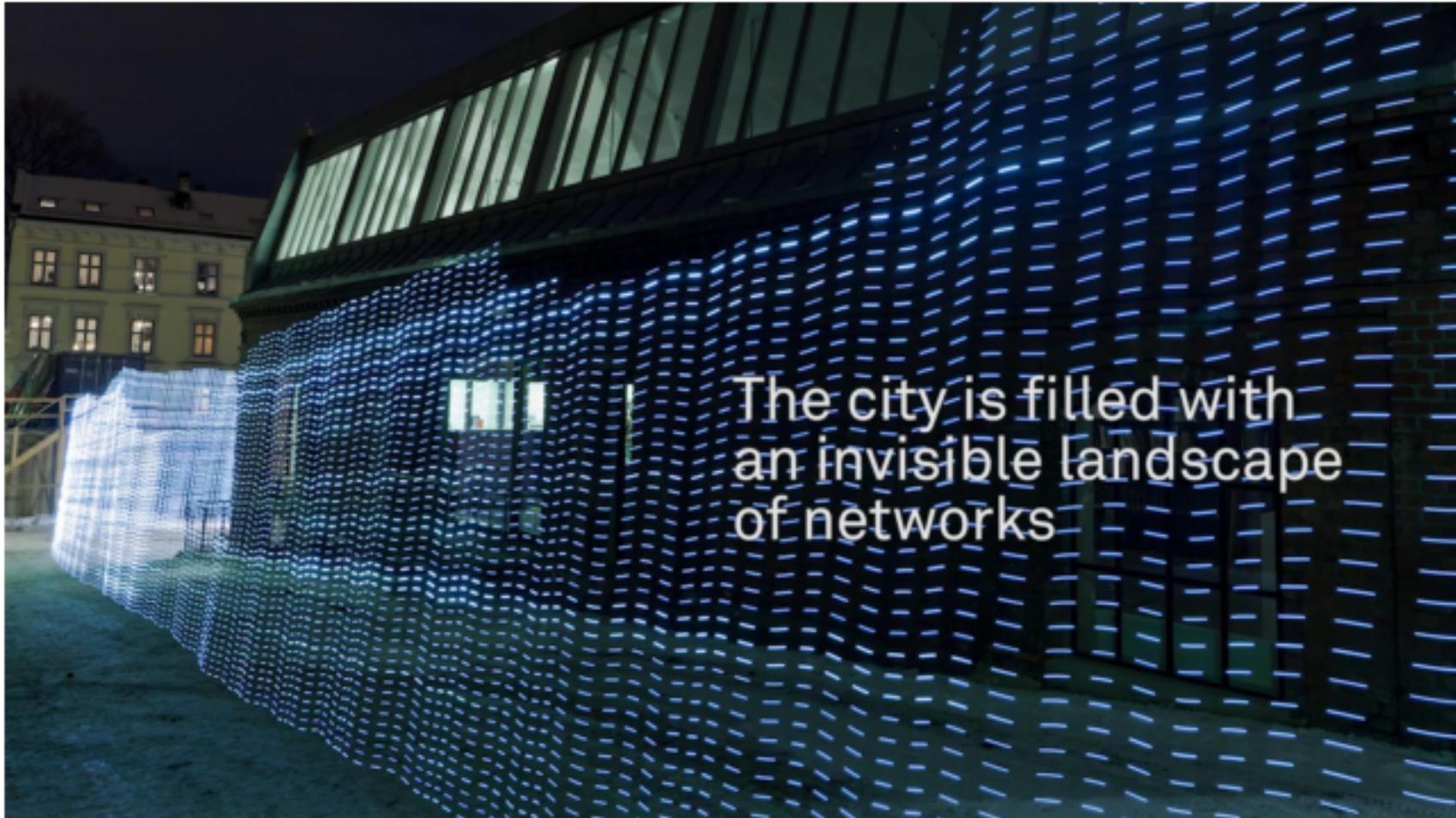






Immaterials: Light painting WiFi

by Timo PLUS
6 months ago



“While the notion of wireless networks implies that there are fewer wires, it could easily be argued that actually there are more wires. Rather than wireless cities or wireless networks, it might be more accurate to speak of the rewiring of cities through the highly reconfigurable paths of chipsets. / Billions of chipsets means trillions of wires or conductors on a microscopic scale.”

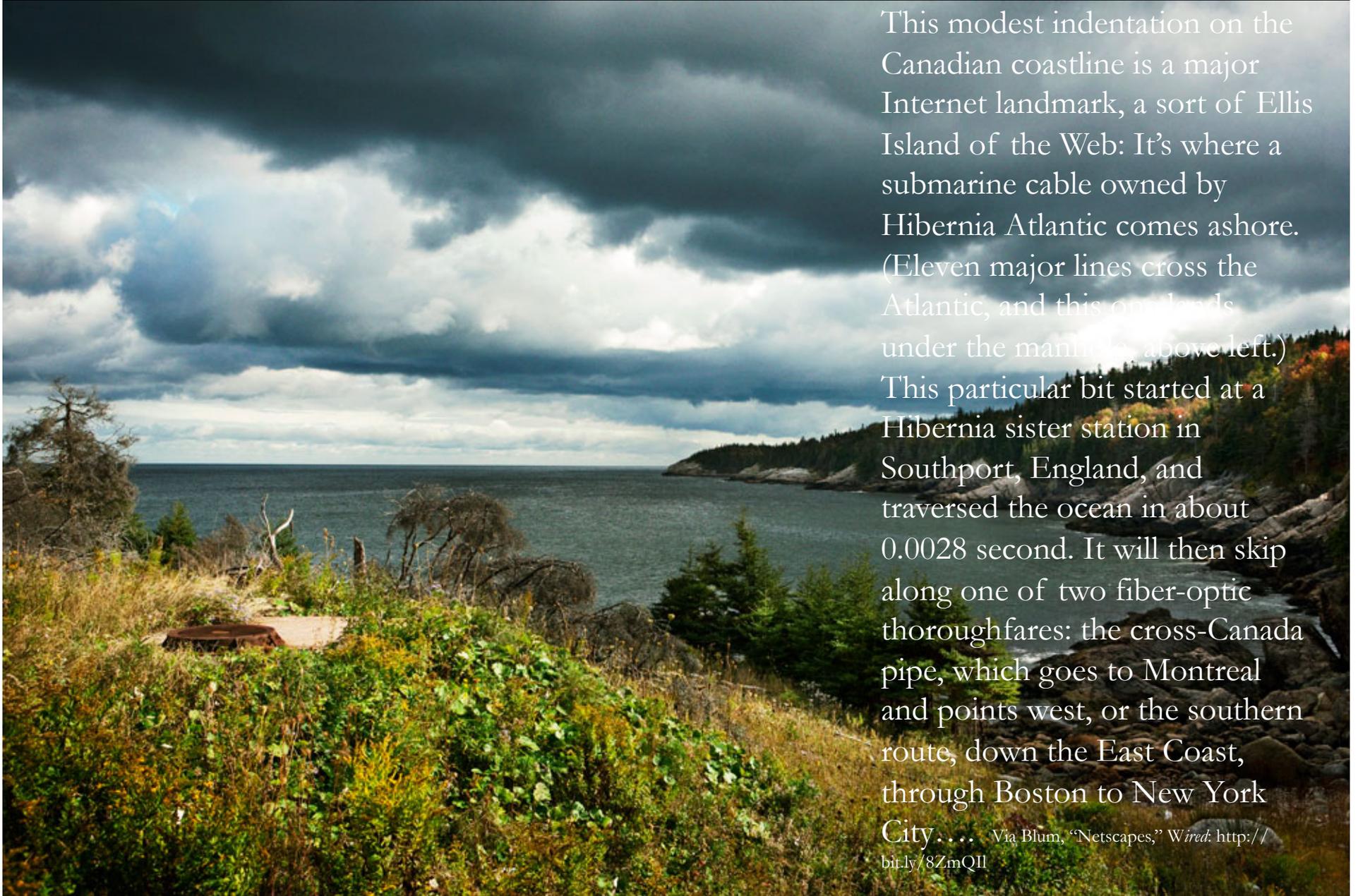
(Adrian Mackenzie, *Wirelessness: Radical Empiricism in Network Cultures* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010): 64-5).

Halifax, Canada

This modest indentation on the Canadian coastline is a major Internet landmark, a sort of Ellis Island of the Web: It's where a submarine cable owned by Hibernia Atlantic comes ashore. (Eleven major lines cross the Atlantic, and this one leads under the manhole, above left.)

This particular bit started at a Hibernia sister station in Southport, England, and traversed the ocean in about 0.0028 second. It will then skip along one of two fiber-optic thoroughfares: the cross-Canada pipe, which goes to Montreal and points west, or the southern route, down the East Coast, through Boston to New York

City... Via Blum, "Netscapes," *Wired*: <http://bit.ly/8ZmQ11>



INFRANET LAB



INFRASTRUCTURES ++++ NETWORKS ++++ ENVIRONMENTS



InfraNet Lab is a research collective probing the spatial byproducts of contemporary resource logistics. The laboratory posits the argument that a body of unique built works continues to arise out of the complex negotiation of, and competition for, biotic and abiotic resources. Operating in a manner similar to infrastructures, these works have evolved to merge landscape, urbanism, and architecture into a sophisticated mutant assemblage of surfaces, containers, and conduits.

4. There is Always Missing Information, Use it.

Donald Rumsfeld's infamous 2002 speech yielded a term that now has its own Wikipedia entry: *unknown unknowns*. He said: *[T]here are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know we don't know.*

5. Agile Maneuverability Rewrites Protocols

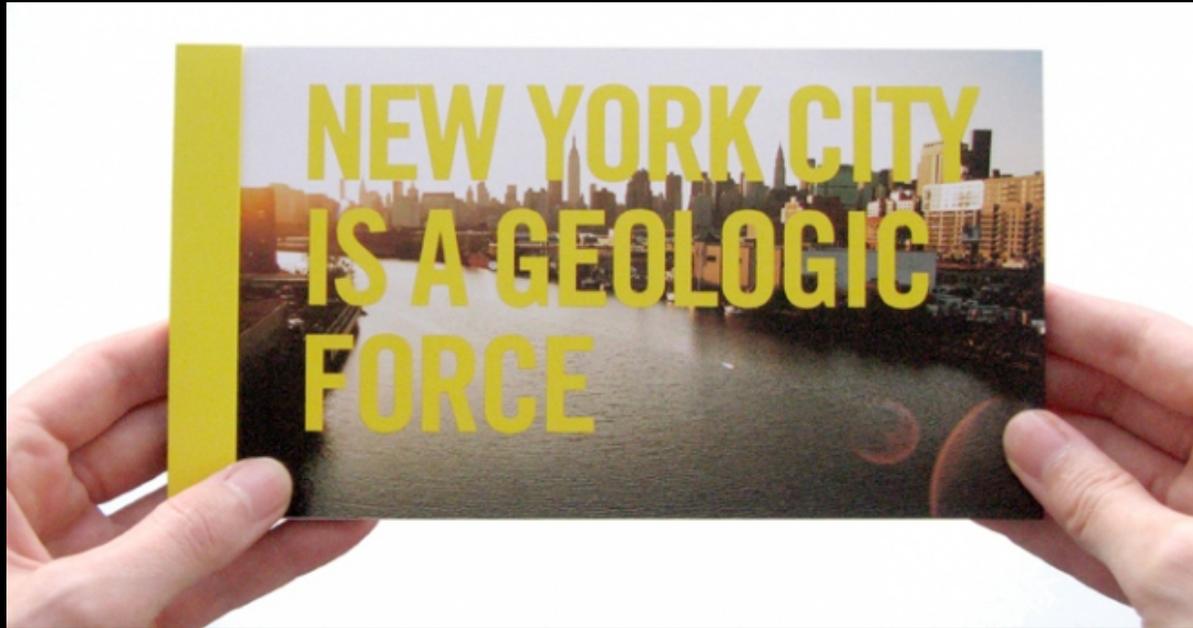


[from *There Will be Blood!*]

Daniel Plainview, played by Daniel Day-Lewis in the 2007 film *There Will be Blood* says: *Drainage! Drainage, Eli, you boy. Drained dry. I'm so sorry. Here, if you have a milkshake, and I have a milkshake, and I have a straw. There it is, that's a straw, you see? You watching?. And my straw reaches acroooooooss the room, and starts to drink your milkshake... I... drink... your... milkshake!*

6. Software Can be Big and Physical, Like Hardware

via InfraNet Lab: <http://bit.ly/h36Gdy>



SITE #15

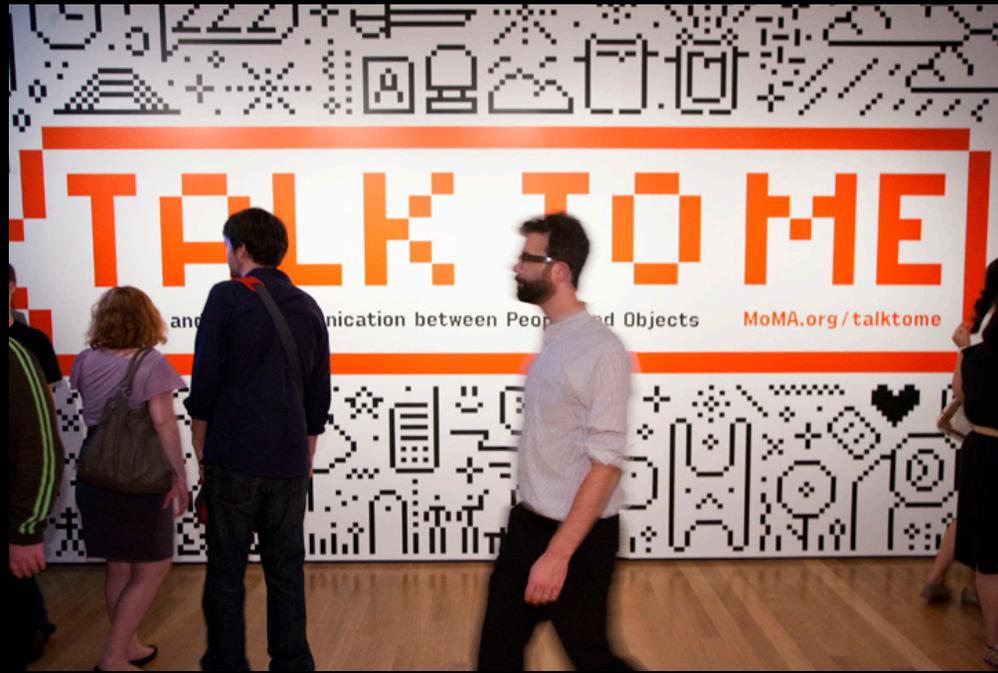
ERRATIC:
rock that differs in
composition and
shape from the rock
surrounding it, having
been transported
from its place of
origin

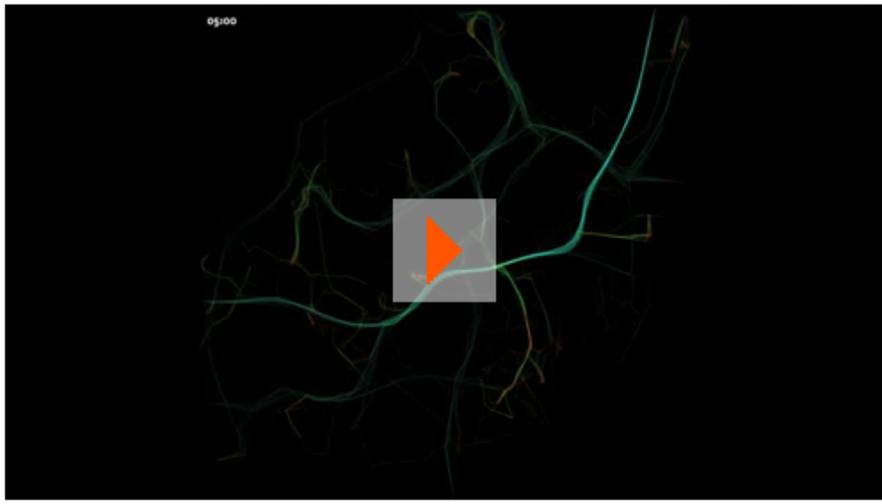
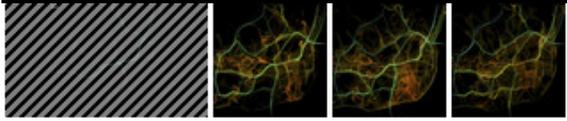
Two panthers guard the Third Street entrance to Brooklyn's Prospect Park. They were created by artist Alexander Phimister Proctor, famous for his sculptures of animals and American Western themes. In 1891, the panthers were cast in bronze, a metal alloy consisting primarily of copper, at the Thiébaud Frères foundry in Paris. Today, they are managed by NYC Parks and Recreation. If we attempt to date the bronze that composes the panthers, we need a term that acknowledges that its elements predate the formation of the Earth (see Site #5). We suggest "pre-Earthian."

All metal sculptures in the City are pre-geologic "erratics" on this planet, assemblages of elements generated outside—and far beyond—the space and time of the Earth itself. The panthers stand on pedestals designed by American architect Stanford White and composed of a ubiquitous material found throughout New York City: Indiana Limestone. The limestone, a native of Earth, is 335–340 million years old (see Site #13). At Prospect Park, Earthian materials host and display pre-Earthian erratics, offering a time- and space-warping experience to Brooklyn park-goers.

PRE-EARTHIAN ERRATIC







Video credit: Pedro Miguel Cruz, Penousal Machado and João Bicker

Visualizing Lisbon's Traffic - 7am, 10am, and 6pm

Pedro Miguel Cruz (Portuguese, born 1985) and Penousal Machado (Portuguese, born 1970) of the Centre for Informatics and Systems (est. 1991) University of Coimbra (Portugal, est. 1290) João Bicker (Portuguese, born 1961) of Ferrand, Bicker & Associados (Portugal, est. 1998)

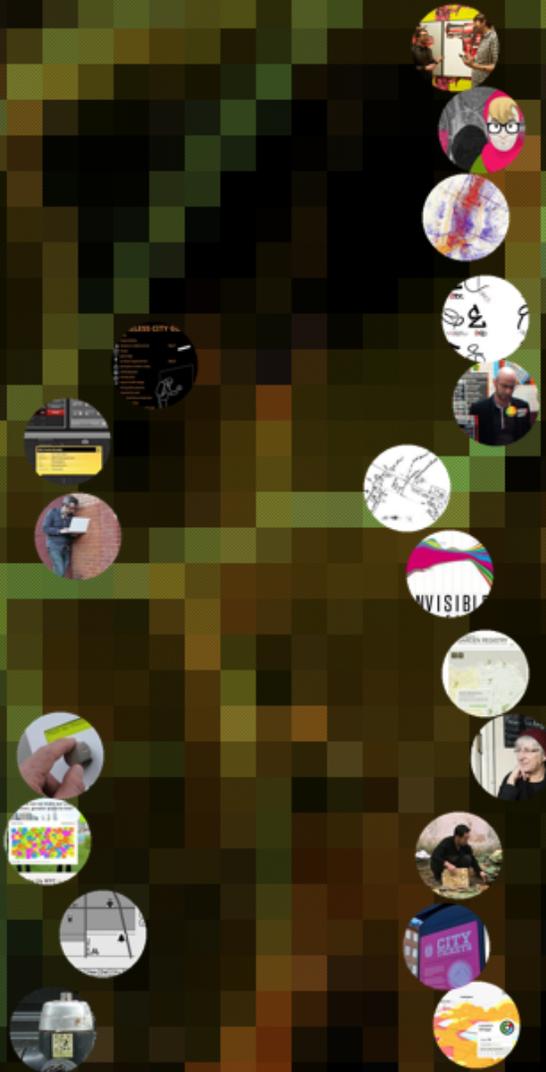
2009

about this project

tweets #ttmlisbon

Category: City

Tags: Visualizations / Maps / Networks



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FIELDWORK/WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Fieldwork + Workshop Calendar

How does Live Feeds work? Each week's program consists of two events: "FeedBack Forums" on Wednesdays and "FeedForward Fieldwork" on Fridays. "FeedBack Forums" are held in the lab and are focused on the shaping and re-shaping of research questions. "FeedForward Fieldwork" sessions then launch these research questions into action and out into the field to see what happens when we put these ideas to work. The cycle of feedback and feedforward inflects on the Lab, charging each week with an ever-richer set of questions and possibilities.

(Note this Calendar is still in development and subject to modification. Please check with the [BMW Guggenheim Lab Calendar](#))

PHASE ONE: UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES AS THE CITY

Wednesday, August 3

Introduction of Programming

Time: 2 pm - 3 pm

Location: BMW Guggenheim Lab

Spurse introduces Live Feeds, a two-part program of FeedBack Forums (FeedBF) and FeedForward Fieldwork (FeedFF) that offers the public an opportunity to examine and expand the lab's in-progress questions. Are you interested in the transformation of your shared environment? Come learn how you can participate — for one event or over 11 weeks.

FeedBF 1: Finding The Local

Time: 3 pm - 5 pm

Location: BMW Guggenheim Lab

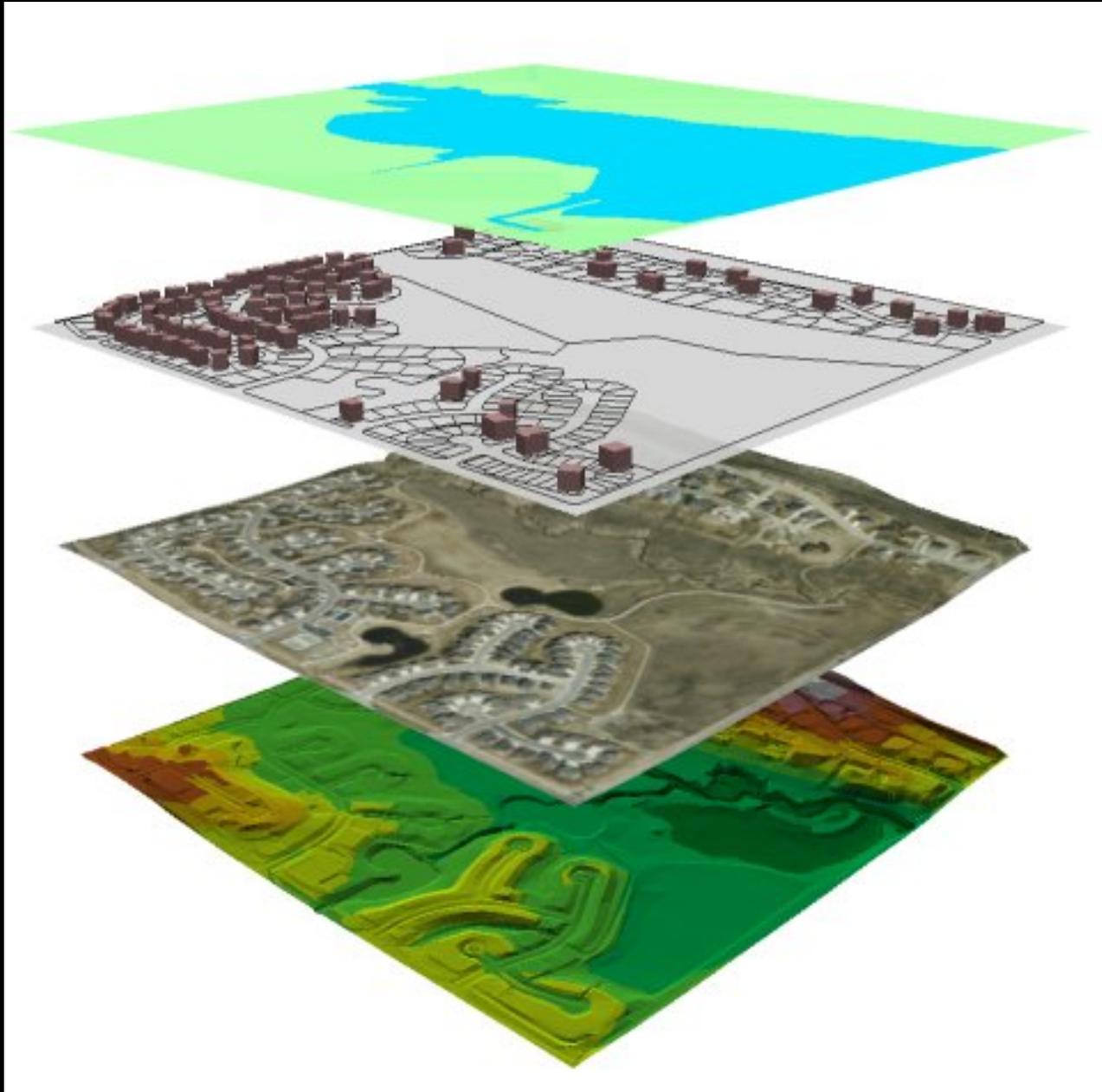
The Local is all around you, but just how do we know where "local" begins and ends in a globally connected city? The Lower East Side is New York's most notorious locus for immigrants, forming a genealogy of local that is so profoundly



via leonelponce on Flickr: <http://bit.ly/ndktH6>



Via born1945 on Flickr:
<http://bit.ly/nmYtpZ>



via DePaul: <http://bit.ly/qIRsLY>



Architecture

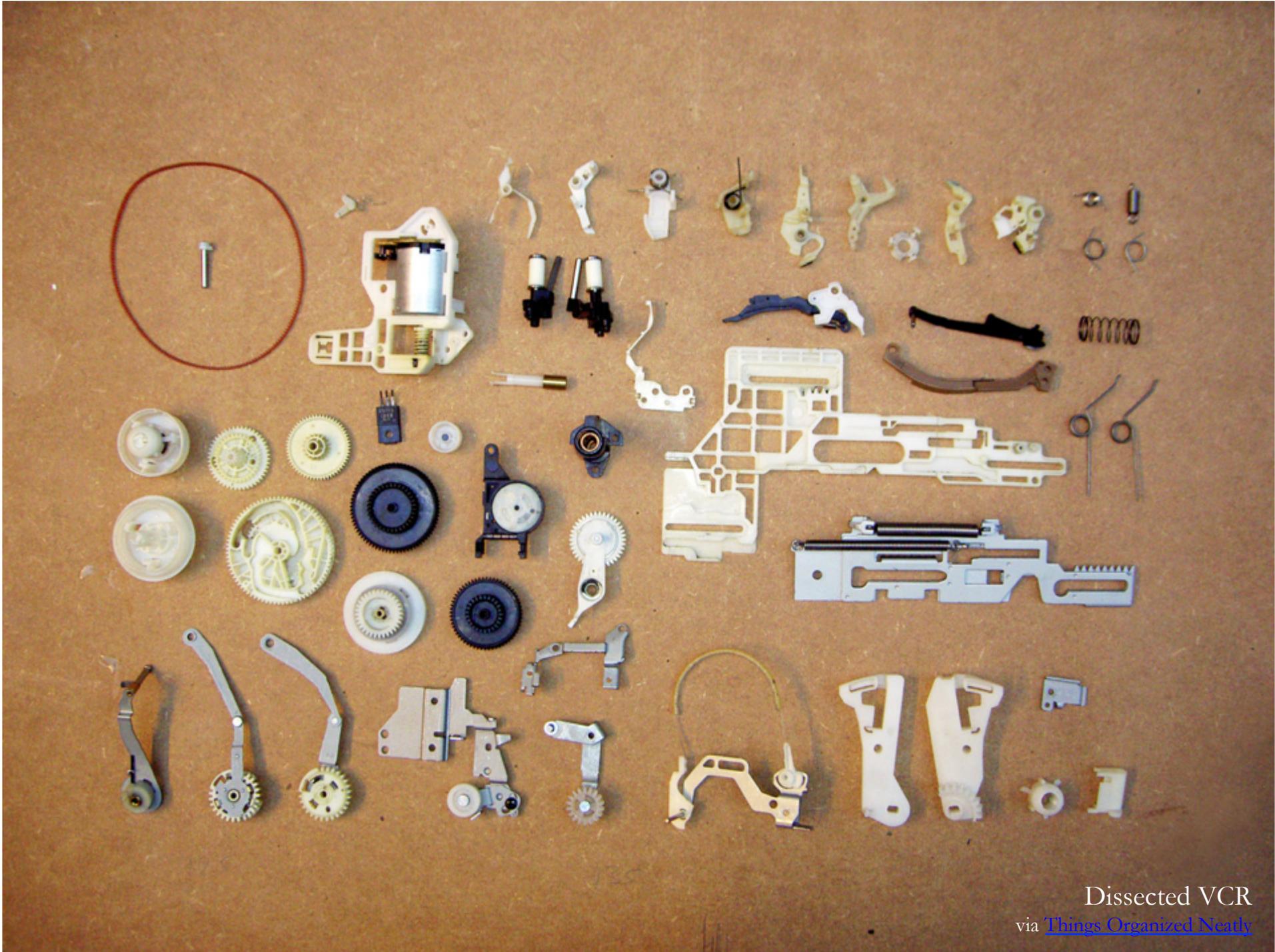


Photo credit: © AIA, Inc.



FRANK
LOYD
WRIGHT

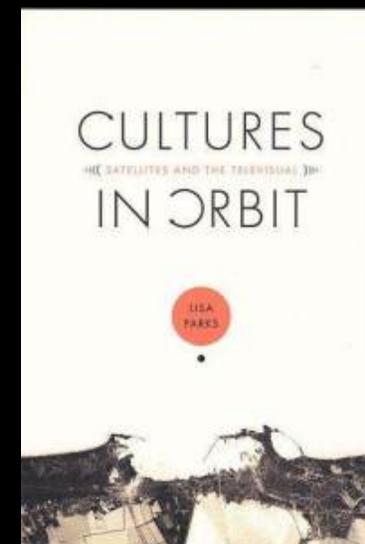
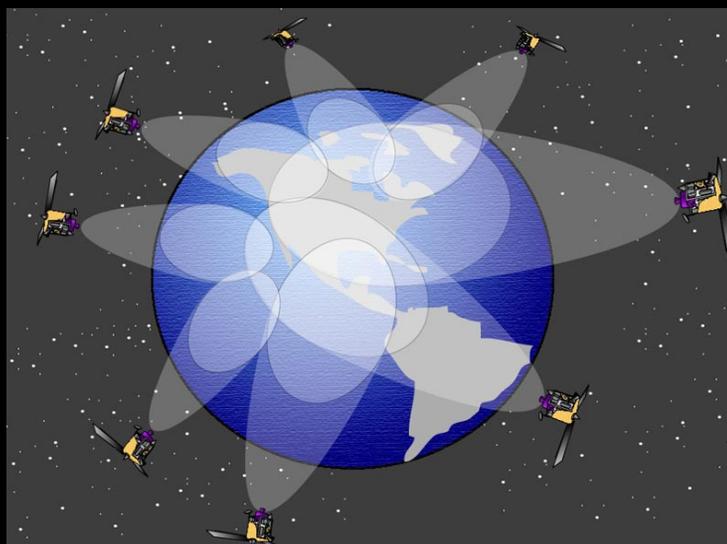
COLLECTION



Dissected VCR
via [Things Organized Neatly](#)



eBoy, FooBar



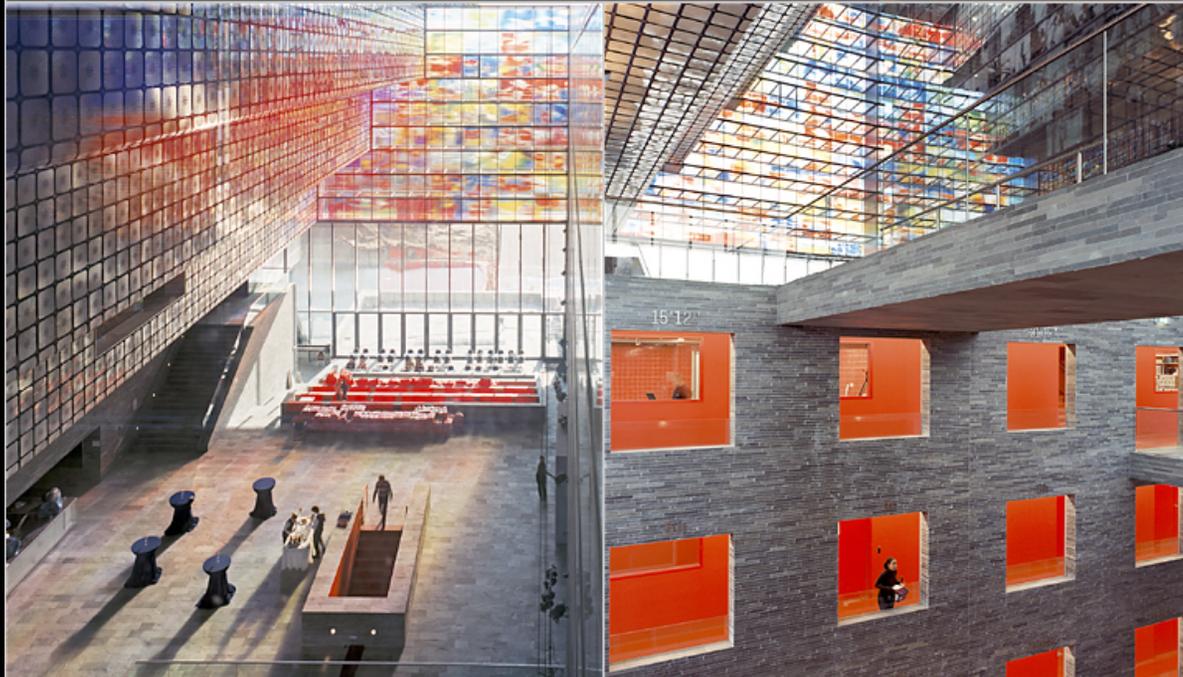




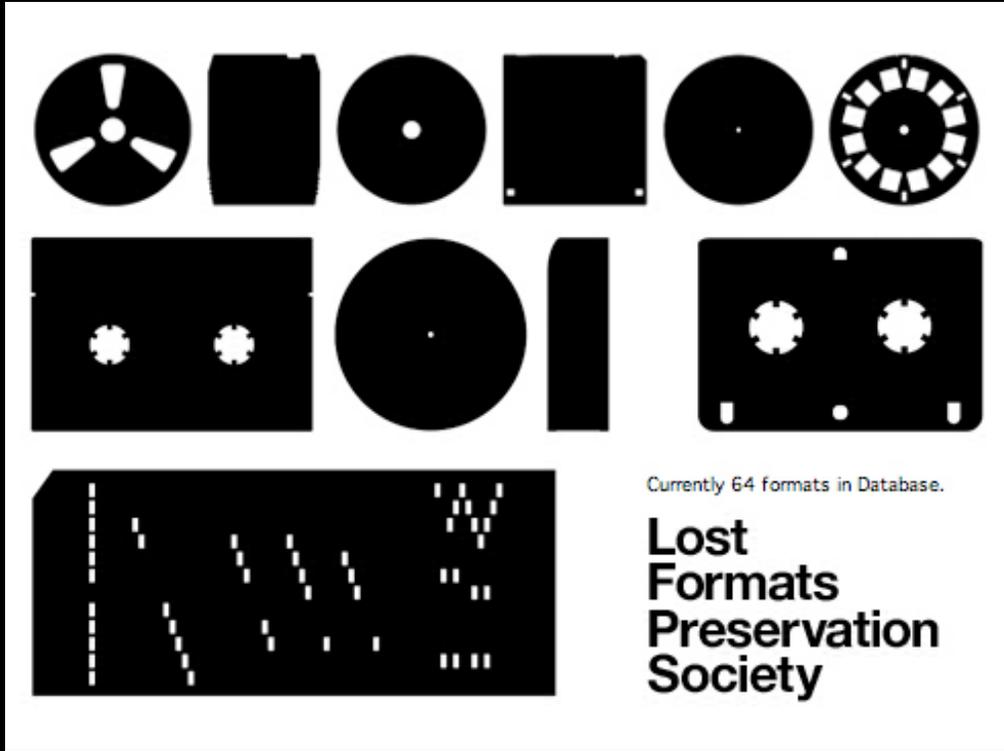
Louis Kahn's Phillips
Exeter Academy Class
of 1945 Library;
Via Wikimedia



Via Structures:NYC
on [Flickr](#)



Neutelings Riedijk
Architects' Institute for
Sound & Vision,
Hilversum, the
Netherlands;
via NYTimes



Currently 64 formats in Database.

**Lost
Formats
Preservation
Society**

via [Experimental Jetset](#)

ARCHIGRAM

In 1961 a small group of frustrated architects in London put together a wild, woolly broadsheet; an 'Archigram' (as opposed to a 'telegram' or 'aero-gramme'). Instantaneous, open-endedness and invention have sustained the group (and others who have subsequently joined it) through an ever-widening series of experimental projects that have carried the name of the original broadsheet.



WALKING CITY

Alan Hurren

The 'Walking City', the 'Plug-in City', the 'Living-Pod' and the 'Instant City' - which is illustrated on this panel - are among the seminal architectural statements of the 1960's - yet, in their all-out questioning of the need for the buildings at all, they threaten the discipline of architecture itself. They suggest that in order to survive we must invent new artifacts, new situations, and regard shelter or urbanism merely as a term of reference that does not demand a 'house' or a 'city'.



LIVING POD

D. Greene

In 1969 the group was invited to submit a scheme for an entertainment facility in Monte Carlo. The scheme was accepted and the blue panels illustrate the development of this project from the competition stage to the final design.

In 1972 the group was asked to take part in a second competition on another site in Monte Carlo, this time for a Summer Casino, and two designs were submitted. They are known as the 'Palm Tree' Casino (shown on the red panels), and the 'Chameleon' Casino (shown on the yellow panels).





EX 1 R 4

E S 6th AVENUE AT 48th STREET.

LOOKING N. E.

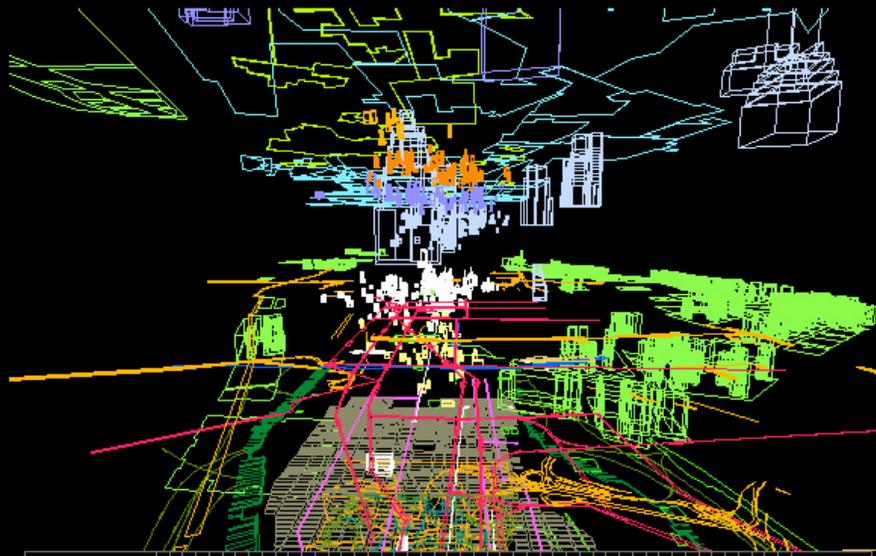
E C manhole partly rebuilt (showing pipes built around manhole and one running through it), in connection with building addition to old subway.

July 31, 1909.

“the study of the cyclically recurring elements and motives underlying and guiding the development of media culture”

“‘excavation’ of the ways in which these discursive traditions and formulations have been ‘imprinted’ on specific media machines and systems in different historical contexts”

(Erkki Huhtamo, “From Kaleidoscomaniac to Cybernerd: Notes Toward an Archaeology of the Media.” *Leonardo* 30:3 (1997): 221-224.)



fly-through | loop
Brian McGrath/Skyscraper Museum, *Manhattan Timeformations*, 2000

“A city...is not a flattenable graph. In a city, networks overlap upon other networks”

(Friedrich Kittler, “The City is a Medium,” *New Literary History* 27:4 (1996): 719)



Nickel Plate Railway Passenger Station



