

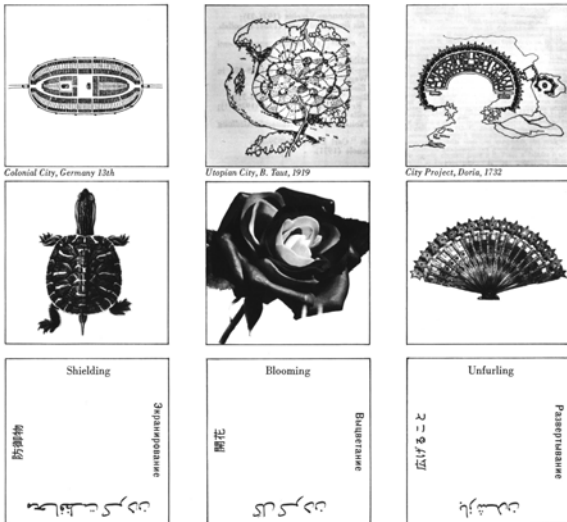
# RE:INFRA-STRUCTURING

Looking at city maps, one is confronted with one's need for information or direction. Maps decipher the urban space as a coordinate system of locations and a system of lanes as possible routes to get to a desired location. The city from the point of the user-particle is decomposed into destination and route. Desire is resolved and neutralized through a jump (immersion) into traffic space, acquiring velocity; the city is distorted into quantum-mechanical condition of blur and drag.

The last century has partly been busy in exposing the nature of mass traffic, to measure the cognitional noise produced in the process, almost as if it would be a psycho-active equivalent to friction-heat emerging out of the permanent collision and detour of atoms. Benjamin, Debord and many others have begun to install and propose ways to expose the nature of urban flows and transactions. Either from within, from a subjective and individual level, prescribing as Debord, or from without as observer, with the effort to dissect and sample the crowd as a viscous medium from which one has been alienated: Both methods could be understood as two archetypes of scientific modes of operation: one through experiment and the other through observation.

What was and still continues to be at stake as an unresolved compound is the condition of the public realm and its site: the city as polis. Where work needs to be taken up, is the investigation towards what we are and where we are here: kids in the city. It has to be done almost like this: Drawing a figure with honey next to an ant colony. Acting upon patterns of life: of the quotidian life, of routine, of numb reflexes. One must assume the urban mass as dormant, until there is evidence of the contrary. So in this sense we would propose to play the part of the prince, who has fought his way through to sleeping beauty, and now faces not only the moral dilemma if to wake up the princess or not, as awakening is the killing of dreams, but also has to find the right technique in navigating the princess from one state into the other. This is unraveling a compacted entity, hacking the ghost of what we are immersed into: a vast stream of information: from emitters via amplifiers to receivers – Eventually fed back.

**The tools at hand are simple. They are components, formats, circuits and lines. Field of action is the collective urban space.**



# RE:INFRA-STRUCTURING

**INFRA-STRUCTURING** implies the introduction of alternative routes and channels, amending the circuitry of the public realm.

As an urbanistic ambition, to change localities and associations of places, we follow a practice usually provided by the authorities. This consists in provision of infrastructure: as triggering, enabling and choreographing movement and urban transactions. Just as subways, highways, taxes, queues in front of administrative locales, infrastructures are imbued with a particle.

In the first cycle of installation, emphasis is set on the devising of linear entities that amend the map of the city. Linearities trace and channel transaction, link locales, set destinations in relationship with each other. Lines as vectors also set a direction: imply progress and thus equip movement with a political agenda of meaningfulness.

The epitome of which is the utopia of the linear city: the urban form shaped in the face of the assembly line production. A big singularity: singular in purpose, singular in production. We trade the image of the singularity for stitching. Running with a sawing machine over the map of the city, creating critical lines and trajectories: Cutting routes of disenchantment and revelation, allowing for pilgrimages out of the nevertheless ineffable paradigm of the city.



**For this we mobilize all the tools and media available.**

# CALL AVENUE / intervention

re:infra-structuring 2009/a.



**Infrastructures are incomplete installations: hardware as innocent as technology in general, programmable, confronting and enabling. The following proposal describes the layout and agency of an infrastructure: Continuing to stress the role of digital media in the process of collective reflection in the urban realm. Wiring infrastructures into the city can not anymore be left to the monopoly of the governing institutions.**

**Infrastructures need to be inhabited, traveled on. Thus the project is an open call to imagine lines of thought: critique to emerge out of the combination of sitings and programmings of the proposed infra\*structure, inviting artists and thinkers to use and abuse the infra\*structure within the urban context.**

**There is a text, which is a message, a story, a promise. The text is comprised of a number of words. Each word is assigned individually to a speaker. There are as many speakers as words, each speaker speaks one word. The text unfolds as the speakers one after the other sound the word assigned. The speakers designate a route in the city that one has to follow in order to follow the story.**

**It is the extended acoustic version of the running led display, yet motions are reversed, the cursor is moving in space followed by the followers: the audience of the message led by curiosity and other motives. This is a medium, to be programmed. Yet its basic message is: get out. Go somewhere else. Just as the pipe of that medieval guy that seduced all the children out from the city after he has not been paid.**

Image credits:

- 1 Hans Hollein – Man Trans Forms
- 2 Reyner Banham – 4 Ecologies
- 3 Burda magazine – cut template for sewing machine
- 4 Unknown Photographer – Havana Housing Complex, Budapest - 1989

# MIGRATION

Traveling and tourism are obvious concepts at hand of motion, juxtaposed by other rather involuntary modes of progression such as emigration and flight. birds migrate to meet their bodily needs. Nomadic life has been a myth in western civilization, coming to fulfillment in cosmopolitan life. From a macroeconomic point of view, more than 50% of all human effort is invested in the improvement and maintenance of the possibility of movement. All lanes follow or are laid out to pursue the common goal. Either consciously as political instruments, or subconsciously accepting a prevalent paradigm in society, the planning and routing of infrastructures have a reverberation onto patterns of migration: defining hubs, accessibilities, designating places, at worse inhibiting interaction.



Understanding the concept of creative migration as a possibility to amend the social fabric with alternative routes of procession, the task arises in designating infrastructures, on which alternative patterns of migration can unfold/take place. The re:infra-structuring project by its nature is invested in the devising of critical lanes in the transmissionary system of the city and regions through digital media thus enabling a quasi-tourism serving purposes and social needs apart from the mainstream. Building roads, bridges, tunnels on which critical messages are transported, infra\*structuring takes on a pioneering of the immobilized potentials of the public (immigrant, tax payer, citizen, authority, ...) Its products intertwine with existing systems, creating junctions: points of departures, detournements in a matrix defined by detentions and denouncements.

The hypothesis that infrastructures as means of production are controlled (laid out) by immanent or explicit authority pursuing simplified goals, unfolding an obstructed, leads to the thesis that channeling society has to be undone partially to allow for alternative routes: the call for escape routes, emergency exits has to arrive on the macro level, just as migration is not pointed, the current networks are insufficient topologically or are overtly mono-cultural (mono-dimensional) to allow for mentally liberating voyages.

Rewiring cities and the senses, the infra\*restructuring project seeks to realize a set of interventions that induce movement, designate narratives in space acquiring the organizing perspective of the urban planner.

# The Open Space

an open project