

## DETERRITORIALIZED LIVING (URBAN-DATA-FARMING, DATA-CLOUDED HOUSING, DETERRITORIALIZED DAYLIGHT), A STUDY, A PROGRAM, AN INSTALLATION AND A HOUSE (?)

Project proposal for Zone of Impending by fabric | ch

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Deterritorialized Living takes its foundation in our previous works (both installations and experimental architecture projects), in a recent self-initiated project and on some actual considerations:

-- We can witness nowadays a growing trend towards a decentralized energy production. Collected and then shared through an "intelligent grid", everybody would produce its [own] clean energy and then share or store the eventual excesses with the rest of the community (Jeremy Rifkin is a big advocate of this energetic future). We'll maybe witness in the future an evolution from a fully centralized energy production (i.e. nuclear plants) toward a decentralized and hopefully clean one.

-- We can witness something similar with food production, with the idea of gardening and the production of food close to the place where it will be eaten, similar in fact to what our grand-parents did. Do we speak about highly decentralized and small scale "gardening" or rather of some sort of relatively centralized "farming", even if in close vicinity to the areas where the food will be eaten (i.e. "urban-farming"), still needs to be clarified and experimented.

-- On the other side, the data side, we can see the exact contrary happening. We move from a highly decentralized model (the personal computer and personal storage era) toward a highly centralized system of privately owned data centers. Even if those not so immaterial and not so distributed architectures let us think that the data are in fact highly decentralized, accessible everywhere, anytime.

-- The fact is that these data centers, quickly becoming the "invisible icons" of our early century mediated urbanism, are mostly located in remote areas where natural resources are abundantly and freely accessible (cold water or air at disposal so to easily cool down the processing units) and where energy is hopefully cheap... and often dirty.

Considering the fact that we can expect a large increase in data usage/storage/networking during the coming decades as well as an explosion in energy consumption for such services; considering the fact that it seems to go backwards in comparison to areas where centralization has already been experimented, we should certainly take on the question(s) that these data centers address to us.

Our "naïve" list of questions would be therefore: should we consider urban-data-farming too? Or should we rather try urban-data-gardening instead? On the contrary, should we consider a highly decentralized system of small interconnected data-centers, distributed for example in as many mountain farmers' houses as possible in the Swiss Alps? Should we by chance inhabit the data center, taking advantage of the heat it generates while also taking into account its highly mediated nature?

Or should we, in fact, consider the data center as the sign of something radically new and important in our relation to global territory and think about it in radical programmatic, spatial and environmental terms?

### OBJECTIVES

The project we are proposing, Deterritorialized Living, will try to address some of these questions in the different ways of an architectural project (3d, video, models,

drawings], a program and a light installation. We already started this work, even if just as sketches. We understand that it is certainly a too large program for a six week residency, which is why we are breaking it down into pieces (Deterritorialized Living - a study -, Deterritorialized Daylight - a program and simple light installation -, Deterritorialized House (?) - a housing project - ) and will operate a selection within the big picture if necessary.

The main point of the project is to consider that through data centers, their ubiquitous data and services as well as through networks, a new "deterritorialized" way of living has been reinforced and in fact materialized: in between places, in between time zones, etc. A continuous day exists now through continents, a networked day.

The first step in our proposal will be therefore to materialize this continuous day: Deterritorialized Daylight, an artificial lighting system, always on but which intensity varies based on the overall network activity around the world. It will become the base of a minimalistic light installation in a room, a sample and will be openly downloadable as a program on the Internet for any other public use.

Deterritorialized Daylight will become one of the main starting points of an architectural project: Deterritorialized House (?) which will also investigate the idea of inhabiting the data center. Permanent artificial lighting (due to the use of our "overall network activity" lighting system) coming from one area of the house will be a design starting point for this house, so as permanent heating coming out from the data center. How to architecture such a house with a zero carbon emission in mind? What new type of living and topology might it induce?

We will consider the idea of "farming" vs "gardening" as well, we will also think about "centralized" vs "decentralized".

## TEAM

fabric | ch is a collective composed of two architects and two computer scientists. We do exhibitions, we do conferences and we do experimental architecture/interaction projects. Two persons (an architect and a scientist) of the group will take part to the residency, would our proposal be selected.

## MODALITIES

We plan to work together through distant collaboration (daily meetings on Skype), but also to produce an exchange of person during the project (i.e. 4 weeks an architect followed by two weeks a scientist, or three and three weeks).

Due to the fact that some of us are teachers (ECAL, Lausanne), only some parts of the year 2013 would remain open for us: mid January to end of February 2013 or during the summer of 2013. But this question remains open due to the possibility of fractioning our intervention or to exchange people.

Lausanne, the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2012

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