

Exercise 3

TERRITORIAL SCALE

Territories interact with cities and urban systems, if we consider them as entities with a metabolism and that they are functioning in the analogy to the stocks and flows model. Territories contain cities, cities contain buildings. Yet they do not form a hierarchical system any more, as the interaction between buildings influences the city as much as the interaction between cities influences the territory.

We must question the traditional definitions of buildings, cities and territories, as the novel non-urbanised high-density settlements will significantly influence our future habitat, as well as the architectural and urban design profession.

Thinking against the current - non-urban cities

In the past, there were strong boundaries between the city and its surrounding territory, the so-called hinterland. The separation between the city, the villages and the countryside was clear, and so was the hierarchy between them.

This situation has changed drastically with the ubiquitous distribution of information technology, particularly the mobile phone and its associated services. Interestingly, the possibility to work at home has changed the life of Swiss citizens, as well as Indian citizens. As the boundaries of the city have disappeared, urbanized systems without cities, non-urbanised, high-density settlements and other unconventional forms of habitat are emerging rapidly throughout the world. Prepare the following:

- Identify and describe two attractive non-urban, non-city settlements which nevertheless show characteristics of an urban settlement
- Identify and describe the most important stocks and flows entering and leaving this area
- Describe the special quality and potential of these settlements for architects and urban designers