HS 2013 - Exercise 3

TERRITORIAL SCALE

Territories contain cities, cities contain buildings. Yet they do not form a hierarchical system, as the interaction between buildings influences the city as much as the interaction between cities influences the territory. Rather, 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.

In this exercise you are encouraged to question the traditional definitions and roles of buildings, cities and territories, as novel non-urbanised high-density settlements will significantly influence our future habitat, as well as the architectural and urban design profession.

Non-urban Information 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. The possibility to work at home or from home has changed the life of Swiss citizens, as well as Indian or Brazilian citizens. As the boundaries of the city disappear, urbanized systems, high-density settlements and new forms of habitat - Information Cities - are emerging rapidly throughout the world. Identify and 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, staying in, and eventually leaving this area

- Describe two approaches how buildings in urban sprawl areas could be transformed from a perceived liability into an asset for the resilience of future cities

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