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Future Fields for a Dissensual Architecture

In the wake of the globalized post-fordist economy, the role of the architect as the demiurge of modernity is no longer credible or relevant. New kinds of space generating agencies are at work, some of which are only vaguely defined but still carry an enormous impact on the commodification of the physical environment. Immense networks of communication and distribution, exurban free trade zones, and corporate city planning, can all be seen as the result of a political and architectural void filled by an expanding infrastructural apparatus. Instead of conceiving architecture as strictly an autonomous system of insular territories in binary opposition to this sea of infrastructure, perhaps it's time to rethink the possibilities of architecture becoming the infrastructural sea itself.

This project explores new architectural strategies for a pluralistic reconfiguration of the common within the infrastructural apparatus of post-fordism. Exploring the often unseen (but nevertheless ubiquitous) production infrastructure of the current economic system, the project understands architecture as equipped with a disposition to challenge the spatiotemporal partitions of this very system from within. If architecture becomes a performative tool on an infrastructural scale, can it unfold possibilities for new subjectivities to claim positions in the "topography of common relations" (Rancière, 2009)? Experimenting with strategies like palimpsest, misregistration, plasticity and juxtaposition, the thesis intends to project and design operative instruments for a dissensual architecture.