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## HYBRID TERRITORIES

Towards a New Sublime and the Cybernetic Meadow



Every minute 574.500 pictures are shared, 4.000.000 videos shared, 16.000.000 text messages sent by more than 3.7 billion internet users which creates daily more than 2.5 quintillion bytes of data. Indeed, more than 90 per cent of the world's data was generated in the last two years which assigns the era we are living in the title of the information age.

Shaped constantly by our culture, data, algorithms and the "cloud" where everything is stored and kept safe, these are ubiquitous to a planetary scale regardless of geographies, political borders or cultural conditions of any kind. The virtual footprint of our culture is evident and unquestionable, but still invisible to the human eye, an abstract idea with no shape or presence and becomes inevitable to ask ourselves: what does it look like to give the virtual a physical form?

Every produced data is stored within giant slabs sitting in the remote territories of the countryside. Most of these are data centres and they are becom-

ing the defining cultural constructions of our age when our collective history is digital, yet (almost) deprived of human presence. A type of building which sits at the core of what it does mean to exist today, but which excludes us.

This thesis aims to prototype an alternative form of server farm with the purpose to bridge the gap between human and machine component through the way it intervenes in the landscape.

The design is meant to celebrate the importance of these infrastructures as a highly symbolic component in the landscape and suggest an architecture which establishes a new relationship with the occasional visitor by delivering a human-based experience.

Keywords : Machine Landscape, Sublime, Data Centre, Post-human

**MATERIAL TURN**

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