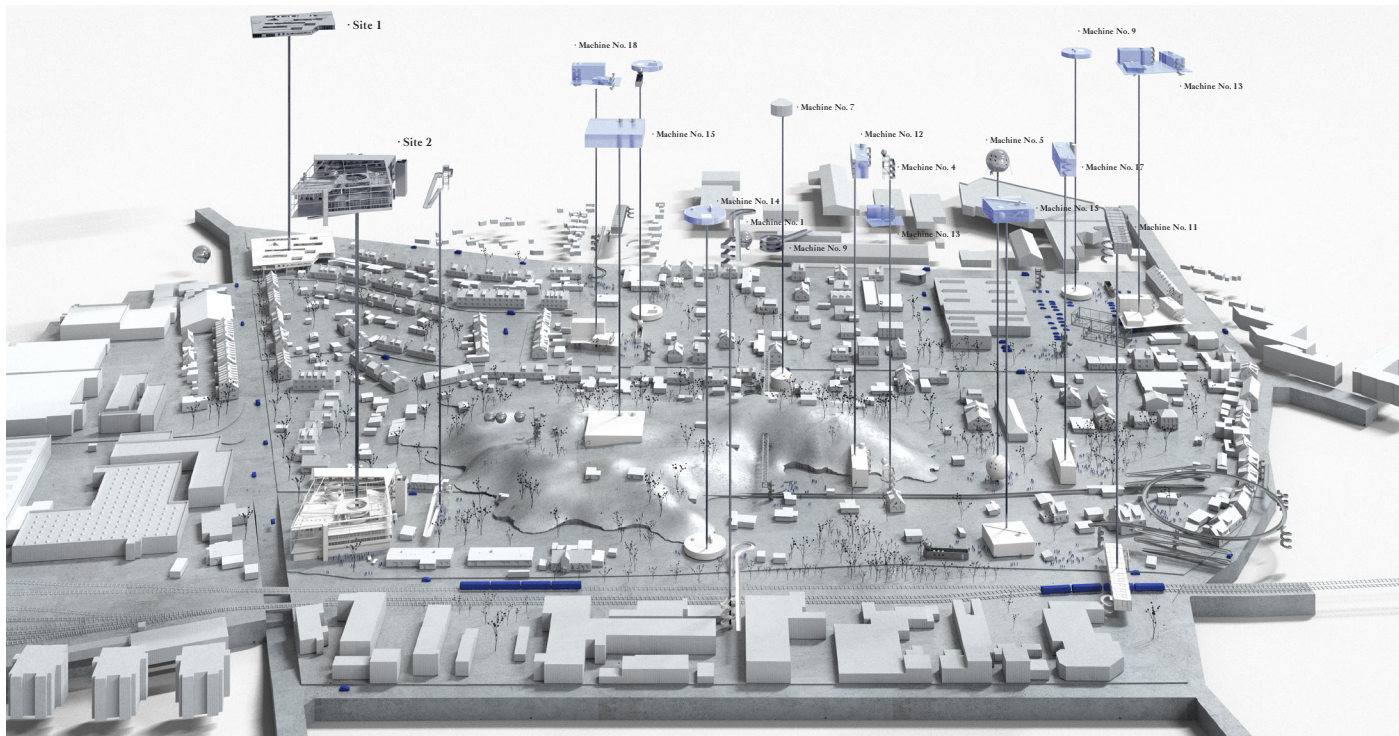


• Domestic Machines •



INTRODUCTION

Living-rooms become offices, garages behave as DIY industries, bedrooms perform as TV sets, corridors as gyms, kitchens as playgrounds and balconies as plazas.

The present global situation of the so-called 'Covid19 crisis' has led into a series of architectural emergencies that have put our cities, our urbanisms into a critical juncture. The tension between design and use, between expectations and reality is far more explicit than ever in the contemporary world. The social, economical and political implications of such a crisis are still uncertain. The fact is that, the current suspension of the laws of urbanism has reinforced the evidence of a long time broken symmetry between form and function.

Form does not follow function anymore. Experience does. The necessity of performance of particular eventual realms within given contextual conditions. The desperate aim to assemble novel contexts, unexpected frameworks. Architecture has been proved not to be a shelter for certain specific programs but a mediator, a curator, of a series of material and immaterial agents that enable us to generate a certain temporary reality.

TECHNO- RURAL TOWARDS A GARDEN CITY 4.0

During the last decades our contemporary societies have experienced an increasing information exchange amid the apparently urban and the apparently domestic. Deforming their borders. Defining a blurred condition that could be understood as Urban Domesticity.

Urban Domesticity has arisen as a fluid model for contemporary metropolitanism. Emerging from the tension between the urban and the domestic. Whenever domestic situations invade the urban sphere. And currently even more commonly, when urban situations are developed within our domestic-scape.

The ongoing 'Covid-19 crisis' has manifested the information exchange between those traditionally hermetic realms even more, when programs that conventionally performed as urban have been secluded within the boundaries of our bedrooms and kitchens.

This project pretends to rethink the traditional German town and update it into our contemporary paradigm. It upgrades the model of the Garden City into the Techno-Garden City, which opens up a new paradigm in where rurality and urbanity are not anymore opposed realms but different temporal states of the same context. Nor are the private and the public, and everyday more commonly work and life.

Consequently single family homes or collective housing are not anymore opposed realms. They are not anymore irreconcilable situations. Through two different types of formalization, the same architectural strategy allows for the creation of a new type of domesticity where independence and community are no longer incompatible, but rather coexist in the same architecture, within the two new models proposed for the sites.

SOCIAL MICRO-CONDENSERS

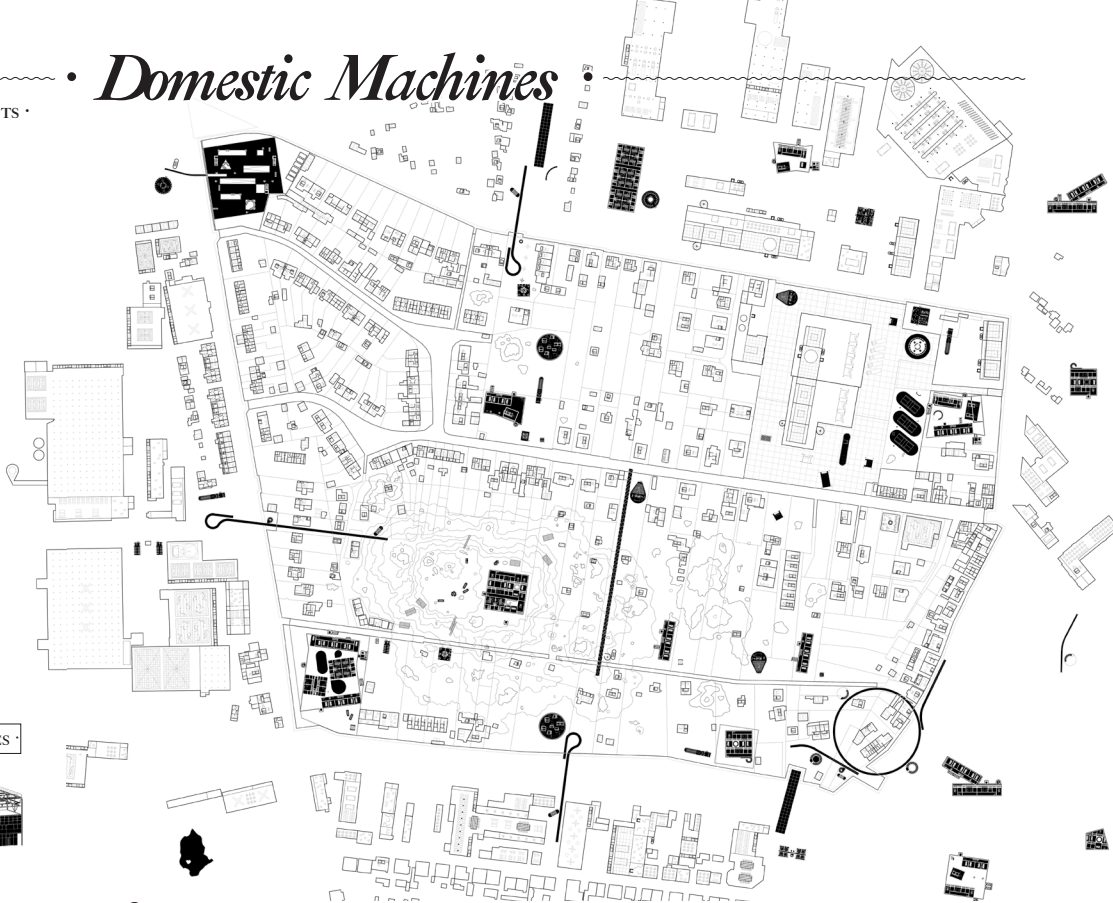
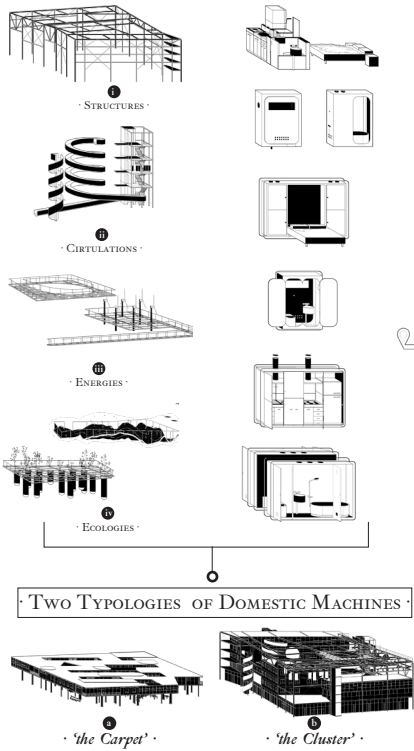
They are activators of Urban Domesticity. They expand the ethos of the home out of the wall-framed boundaries of the traditional house or the conventional apartment. They allow to extrude features of domesticity into the urban realm, generating a Urban Domesticity that is lived commonly.

These 'Social Micro-Condensers' are not isolated islands of domestic programs among the urban context, but a real network of related uses that complement and counterpoint each other, providing the necessary public features for the citizens and allowing to construct an innovative urban realm. They act as an 'Exploded Social Condenser' for the local communities, creating not just the architectures that shelter certain domestic uses but also providing the tools and mechanisms to develop such an expansion of the conventional home into the urban space.



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· SITE ARTIFACTS · · DOMESTIC ARTIFACTS ·



AN X-RAY OF OUR SOCIETIES

Our cities defined from the spaces where we live in. Both domestic and urban realms are the spatialization of our societies, of their citizens' lives and of their social behavior.

This proposal establishes a series of different Typologies of apartments that correspond to different models of users and groups of users. Each Typology materializes social features by means of architectural conditions: double floors with double entrance for independence, common spaces for socializing and sharing, bathrooms that become circulations, kitchens that behave as living rooms, etc. Those architectural conditions have been arranged in various combinations in order to achieve a contemporary, complex and real model for our societies requirements. And also for the upcoming needs, for those futurable situations that cannot be predicted but for which we can provide tools for adaptation.

For that purpose, we have worked with Models of users. Both these Models of Users and the Architectural Typology that corresponds them are not just defined in terms of quantities (number of users, age range, square meters, number of specific rooms, services, etc) but in terms of conditions and qualities that define them as citizens of our society. For example, such a Qualification of our Users would establish different models according to the grade labor stability, to the grade of compromise of a partnership, to the grade of independence within a family, or even to the possibility of growth or shirk of a family. The qualities of these groups of users are the ones that construct the daily bases that establish the rules for the definition of our urban and domestic realms.

At an extreme of this catalogue stand various typologies that respond to a more conventional way of living, based in the dichotomy life/work and structured around the family node. However, at the other extreme what we have named as Total Living: a reduction of the private practices of living to the minimum cell, orchestrated around a machines that gathers all infrastructure. The remaining public domesticity is experience in community, and living, working or leisure rooms are not confined in apartments but scaled up and manifested commonly as a whole plan of the block.

In between these two extreme, a series of variants allow the users to configure their needs



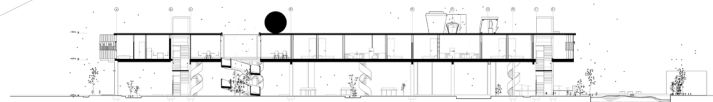
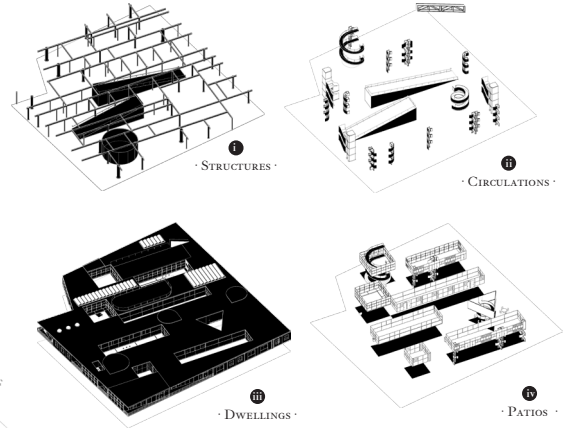
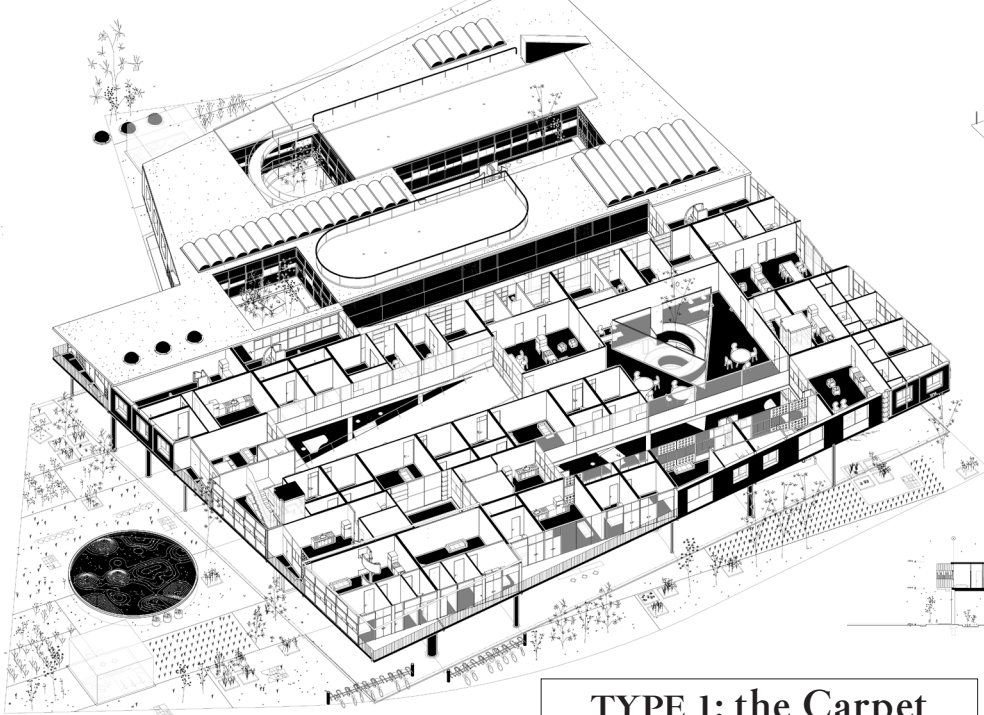
FROM ZONING TO HYBRIDIZATION

The strict zoning of urban programs, which for decades has governed the design of the modern city, has resulted in a territorial inequality between large residential suburbs on the periphery and dense work centers in the centers. Generating a unilateral dependence between them and causing the shortage of large metropolitan areas due to their deficit of mixed programs.

Consequently, the public and private spheres have been held captive in watertight enclosures.

Faced with this inequality, a hybridization of Life and Work is proposed. A new paradigm not simply urban, but social, in which new models of the Life / Work duo allow the balanced coexistence of both. A mixed territorial structure that integrates new urban tools such as teleworking, co-workings and co-living to generate innovative, more heterogeneous forms of metropolitanism.

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TYPE 1: the Carpet

FOM DISPERSION TO CONGESTION

It solves this dichotomy through a very basic architectural operation: whereas the traditional semi-rural villa of the garden city works in plan (a patio or garden is confronting a home) the carpet villa works in section (the garden does not confront the home anymore, but it's the home that is elevated over a commonly shared patio that extends its public ethos to the site and neighbor)

HOME VS. LABOR VS. LEISURE

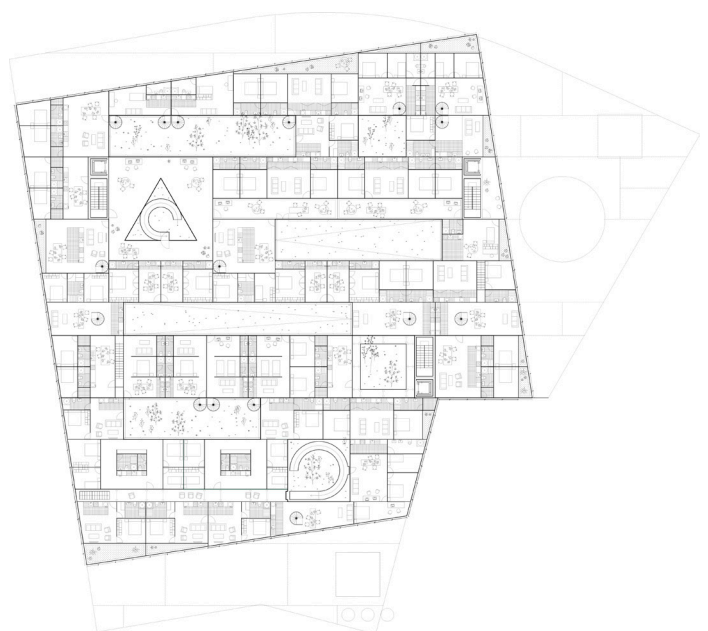
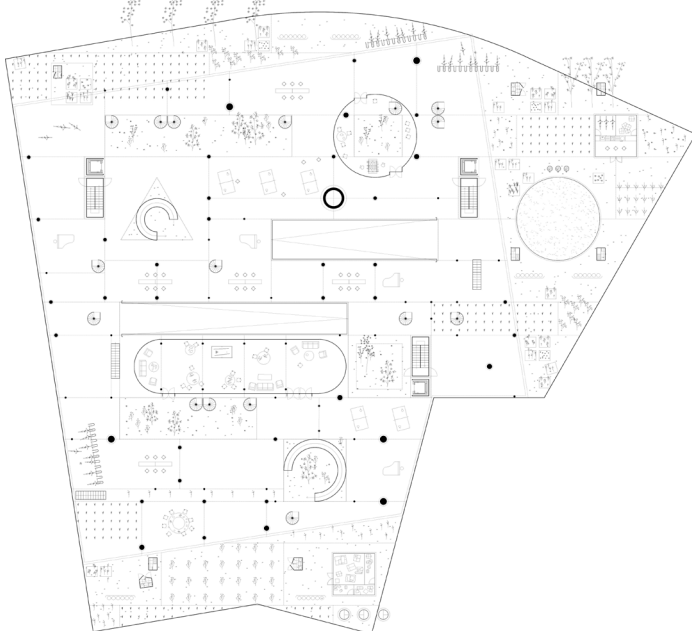
In the contemporary city, Home and Labor are not anymore opposed realms but merged realities. They are just radicalized terms of a much more blurred reality. Work has been merged with domestic activities as well as domesticity has been released from the home in order to take place within labor spaces.

That primary division of labor space and domestic space that sustained the triumph of modernity during decades has been dismantled by the subsequent releases of the personal computer, the world wide web and the smartphone, among others. (8) The technologies that those devices and systems involve have constructed a change in the medium by which publicness is constructed in the contemporary society.

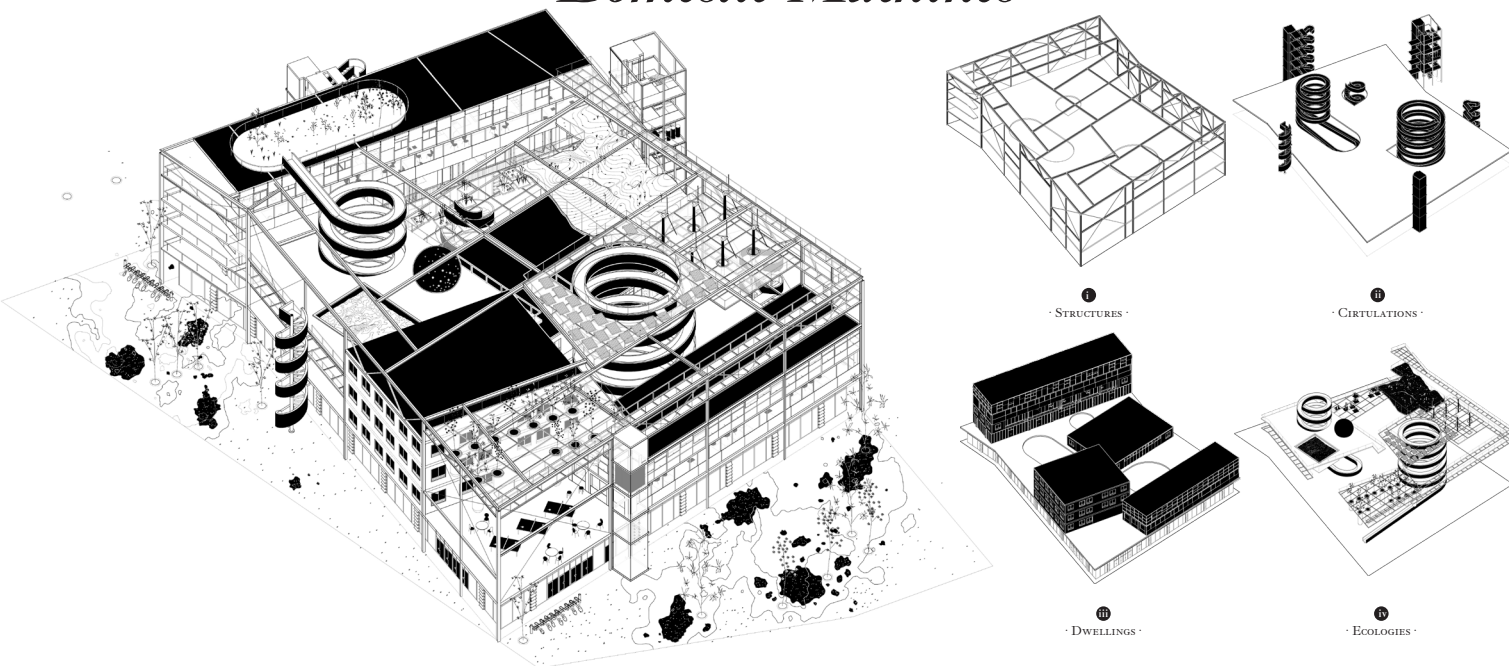
With the new medium a new notion of publicness is designed as well as new societies. That medium has collaborated to blur the lines that distinguished work spaces from those of the daily domestic activities. While work and home have been opposite spheres in the modern life, in the contemporary city, digital technologies have generated a medium that constantly mediates between both, establishing much more complex situations and conditions where new publicness is achieved and performed.

Labor is not anymore developed uniquely within work spaces. As consequence, domesticity is not anymore solely rendered within the home, nor urbanism is exclusively developed in the streets. Both of them have escaped the restricted boundaries that Modernity gave them in order to define a whole series of in-between spaces that are shaping the economical, political and cultural spheres of our societies.

Everyday, more and more, we have to be equipped with the tools and strategies that would help us to navigate within those uncertain blurred territories.



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TYPE 2: the Cluster

FROM THE GARDEN CITY TO THE GARDEN BLOCK.

The qualities of the garden city are technified through a series of architectural machines, that implement the traditional rurality of the town into a urban worldwide connected node. This second typology gathers within one structural box a series of Volumes of Domestic Spaces that are articulated through performative and ecological machines.

The existing trees in the middle of the site are kept and the spiral turns around them generating a vegetative patio.

FROM FORM TO PERFORMANCE

For centuries, the way that we have lived our cities has been defined by an univocal assignment of a program to a particular form, establishing a series of architectural typologies that dictated 'what' should be done 'where'.

However, situations such as Augmented Domesticity prove that the bilateral relationship between program and form is no longer stable. Everyday it is more evident that our bedrooms are not used exclusively for resting. Nor our kitchens to cook. Nor our bathrooms to wash ourselves up. Consequently, stable urban typologies, just as auditoriums, libraries, hospitals, stations or parks also suffer permutations that question whether their designs should be driven by a decrepit relationship between form and use.

Both the fugue of programs outside of the architectures where they were conceived and their appropriation for unexpected uses, are leading towards a new metropolitan paradigm.

The domain of the urban is no longer built in the streets of the city, but spread intermittently inhabiting the domestic interiors of existing architectures. As a consequence, the practice of architecture requires a mediation between conditions that perform at a particular moment, generating the resources and requirements that allow something to happen, something to "take place".

There are no architectural typologies anymore, but 'architectural performances'. Performance, and not program, is nowadays the driver of architecture.

