politecnico di milano

the athens programme

the art of building cities (POLI09)

ATLAS project

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5 conditions:	5 counter-actions:
urban sprawl	**SPRAWLING**
shrinking city	**SHRINKING**
tabula rasa	**TABULARAZING**
slum	**SLUMMING**
gated community	**GATING**

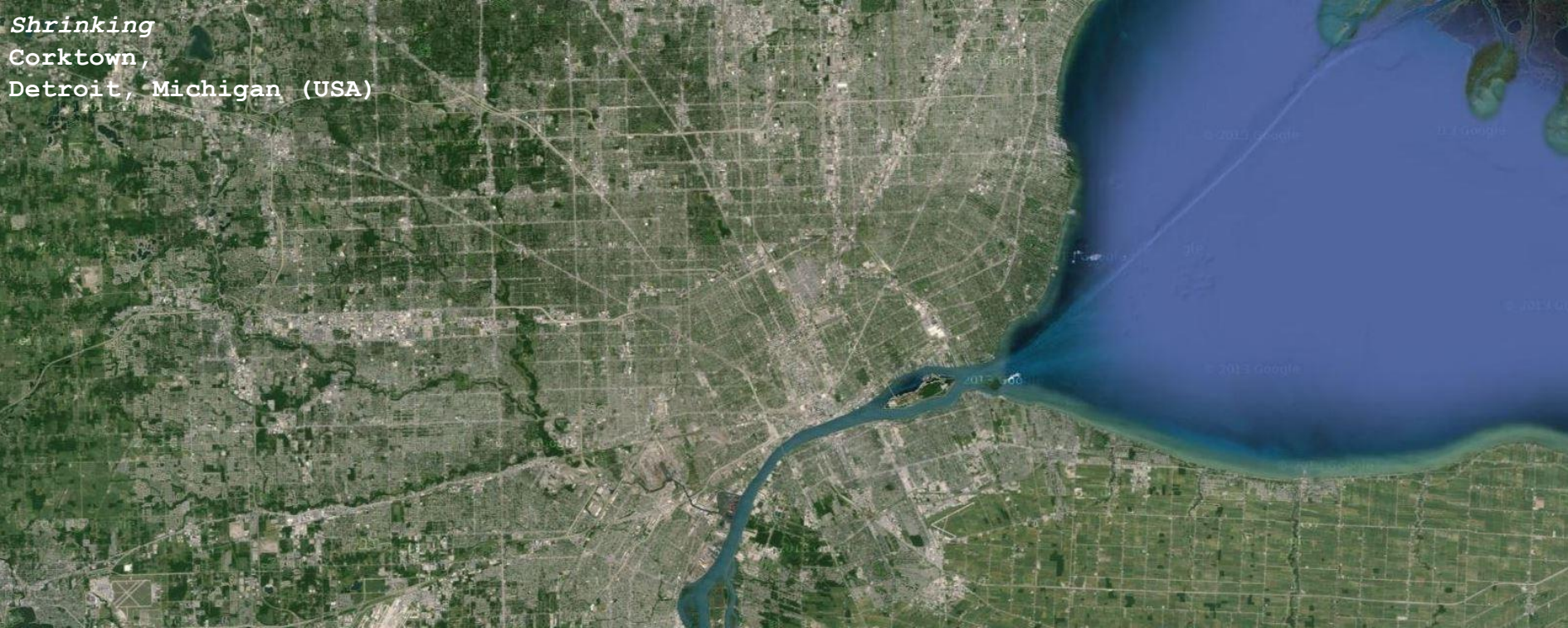
Sprawling
Kortijk
Lille Area, France
Middelburg
Goes
Yerseke
Vlissingen
's-Gravenpolder
Westerschelde
Essen
Eindhoven
Woensel-Noord
Hoogstraten
Kalmthout
Breskens
Knokke-Heist
Oostburg
Terneuzen
Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe
Brecht
Turnhout
Valkenswaard
Blankenberge
De Haan
Brasschaat
Malle
Zoersel
Retie
Axel
Schoten
Lille
Kasterlee
Mol
Lommel
Oostende
Brugge
Maldegem
Eeklo
Zelzate
Stekene
Beveren
Zuid
Ranst
Middelkerke
Wilrijk
Herentals
Nijlen
Geel
Balen
Zedelgem
Beernem
Sint-Niklaas
Olen
Peer
Bree
Koksijde
Ruddervoorde
Evergem
Kontich
Lier
Westerlo
Leopoldsburg
Meeuwen
Veurne
Aalter
Lokeren
Bornem
Vorst
Torhout
Wingene
Gent
Willebroek
Heist-op-den-Berg
Beringen
Houthalen
Dunkerque
Diksmuide
Kortemark
Dendermonde
Mechelen
Tielt
Zwijnaarde
Wetteren
Zemst
Aarschot
Diest
Lummen
Zonhoven
Genk
Gravelines
Deinze
Calais
Bourbourg
Roeselare
Aalst
Vilvoorde
Hasselt
Wissant
Audruicq
Waregem
Zottegem
Guines
Poperinge
Ieper
Oudenaarde
Bruxelles
Brussel
Leuven
Marquise
Parc Naturel régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale
Kortrijk
Ninove
Tervuren
Tienen
Sint-Truiden
Cassel
Menen
Brakel
Wimille
Geraardsbergen
Sint-Pieters-Leeuw
Overijse
Tongeren
Saint-Omer
Comines
Ronse
Landen
Hazebrouck
Bailleul
Mouscron
Halle
Outreau
Lessines
Waterloo
Wavre
Jodoigne
Waremme
Lumbres
Roubaix
Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve
Desvres
Hem
Hannut
Hardelot Plage
Samer
Aire-sur-la-Lys
Lille
Kain
Ath
Ramillies
Tournai
Liège
Faches
Nivelles
Eghezée
Camiers
Soignies
Gembloux
Lillers
Fernelmont
Étaples
Béthune
Seneffe
Huy
Fruges
Berclau
Péruwelz
Carvin

Sprawling
Kortijk
Lille Area, France

Sprawling
Kortijk
Lille Area, France

A suburban context where the E17 and E403 motorways cross, in the North Western Metropolitan Area, a huge conurbation spreading from Lille, Bruxelles, Antwerpen up to Rotterdam/Amsterdam. This context presents heterogeneous urban conditions, such as infrastructures, detached and semi-detached houses, agricultural fields: the Generic City described by Rem Koolhaas.

Task: to propose urban forms/structure/objects which preserve the agricultural fields from being developed as generic city, and adding value to inhabitants' quality of life (against individualism).


Shrinking
Corktown,
Detroit, Michigan (USA)

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Detroit, Michigan (USA)

Shrinking
Corktown,
Detroit, Michigan (USA)

Facts:

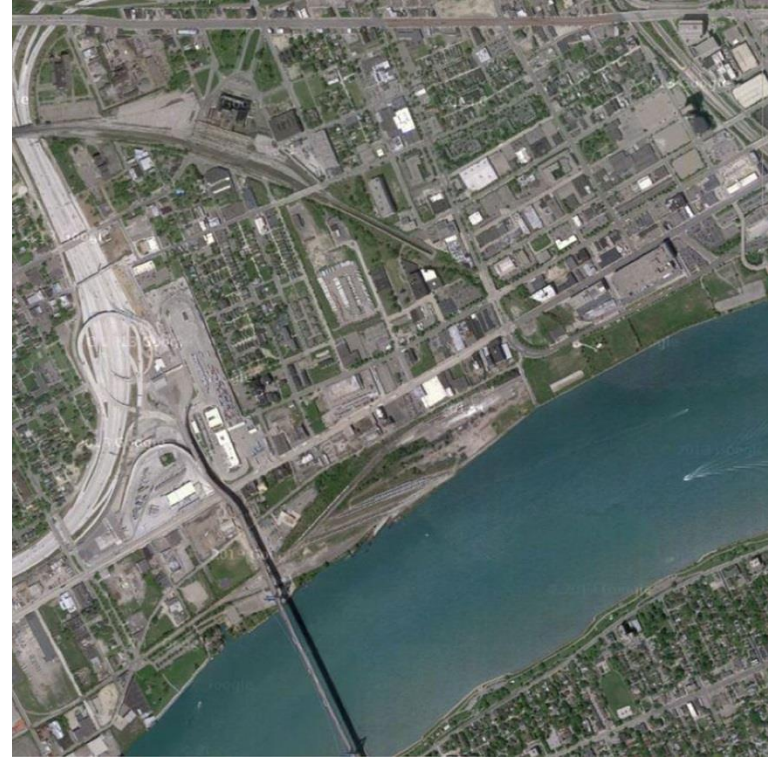
population from 1900 to 1950 = from under 285.700 to over 1.8 million

population from 1950 to 2000 = from over 1.8 million to 951.270

in 1998, 79% of the population of Detroit was African American

in 1998, 78% of the population in the surrounding suburbs was White

Shrinking
Corktown,
Detroit, Michigan (USA)



Shrinking
Corktown,
Detroit Michigan (USA)

Shrinking
Corktown,
Detroit, Michigan (USA)

The oldest district of a city world-famous for its shrinkage urban process. It has a lot of vacancy blocks within a fragmented context of detached houses and ex industrial sheds, abandoned due to the economic/production crisis which invested the cities in the last decades. The district has been partially razed in the fifties for the Michigan Avenue lengthen, and is framed by the Ambassador Bridge, which links USA and Canada and is passed by the highest goods traffic in North America.

Task: to propose urban forms/structure/objects which revitalize this urban district (or parts of it), in spite of the shrinking process which affects the city.

TabulaRazing
Queenstown
Singapore, Singapore

TabulaRazing
Queenstown
Singapore, Singapore

Singapore represents the realization of the Modernist dream. Tabula rasa, zoning, residential districts entirely built by public housing slabs, to face the continuous demographic growth. There is no physical degradation, there is alienation. Queenstown has been the first new settlement. It will likely be the first to be replaced. Tabula rasa, again.

Task: to propose urban forms/structure/objects which break this vicious circle, providing this settlement with resilience and human scale and adding value to inhabitants' quality of life (against standardization).

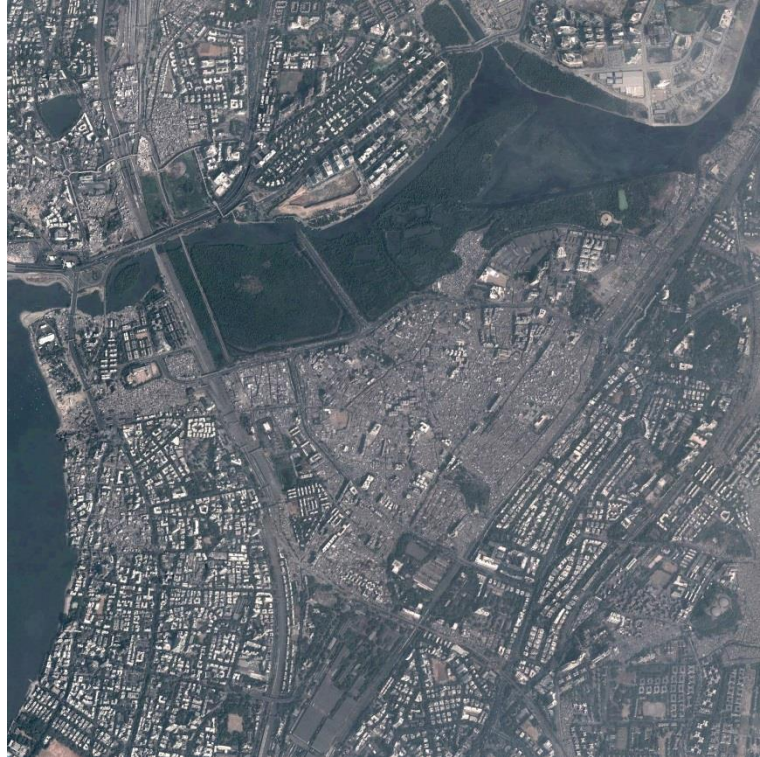
TabulaRazing
Queenstown
Singapore, Singapore

Slumming
Dharavi
Mumbai, India

Slumming
Dharavi
Mumbai, India

The oldest and more productive slum in Mumbai City, main hub for the production of goods that are then exported all-over India and abroad.
Due to its central position, so close to the very business district of the city, it have been object of many projects of requalification (the process is ongoing) aiming to redevelop the area, with the false aim to improve the poor living conditions it offers.

Task: to propose urban forms/structure/objects, able to resist against developers' and part of administration's pressure and to add value to inhabitants' quality of life.



Slumming
Dharavi
Mumbai, India

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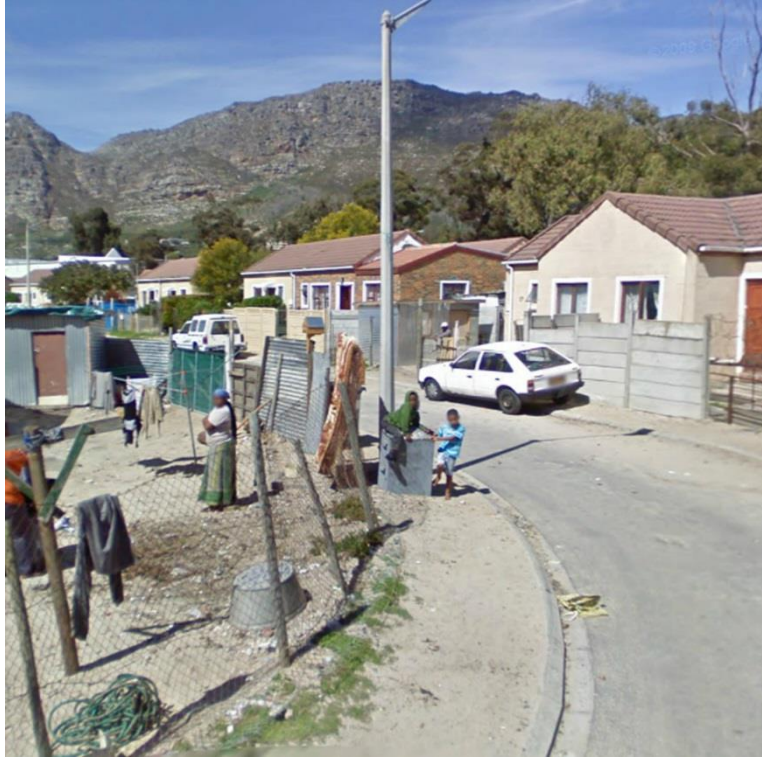
Dharavi
Mumbai, India

Gating
Westlake development
Cape Town, South Africa

Gating
Westlake development
Cape Town, South Africa

Mixed used area, where a gated community (Silvertree Estate, private development) and a poor village (Westlake Village, built by the same developers) substituted an informal settlement, and now coexist within a spatial proximity of 500 meters. The gated community, with its electrified walls and accesses controlled by gatehouse, is a part of the city completely forbidden for those citizens who do not live there or are not invited. A part of the city strictly separated from its urban context.

Task: to propose urban forms/structure/objects which open up the fence, having consensus both of the inner inhabitants and the outer ones.

Gating
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