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Archaeology of Infrastructures. A conceptual cartography.

In the transition from a mechanistic vision, typical of Modernity, based on abstraction and separation (and in architecture on the metaphor of the machine), to another vision that could be defined as thermodynamic, a new world emerges whose material and technical articulations appear according to open, fluid and unstable dynamics. It's something about buildings and at the same time about electro-material environments, or atmospheres.

'Archaeology of infrastructure. A conceptual cartography', aims to be an investigation about those moments of discontinuity and fracture that express the crisis of Modernity and announce a paradigm shift.

Only by analyzing such shift, we can really comprehend what occurs in the theoretical elaborations and in the most recent design practice. The typology that most represents the transition towards a new vision is the notion of infrastructure: characterized by a multitude of declinations and categorizations, this notion marks the last 15-20 years of architectural production, resulting on one hand as the symptomatic figure of a constant transference into the architectural debate of concepts that proceed from other disciplinary territories; on the other hand, representing in its evolution the ideal opportunity to detect flows of thought, hybridize concepts and manipulate data. So investigating the notion of infrastructure means to deal with the complex interpenetration of architectural, biological and social structures within a single element, and at the same time, face new attitudes: a new relationship between interior and exterior, the creation of artificial territories, the mix between horizontal and vertical configurations, the change from the idea of program to the idea of use (use implies movement, the idea of experience, perception, fluidity).

Vision machines, knowledge apparatus, architectures of invisible data: what we detect today as typical contemporary manifestations, are but the late-capitalist evolution of the modernist typological supports.