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### **The Possibility of Emancipating Architecture - Categories of Estrangement**

A new social commitment and engagement is needed in architecture given the current crises, and lack of social responsibility in architecture and society as a whole. When you start to challenge the cliché liberating possibilities can be activated. I believe that categories of 'Estrangement' (as strategy), such as subversion, reflexivity, and the absurd, can create possibilities of emancipation, and activate the spectator. I will trace the tradition of these different techniques from the perspective of liberating estrangement while critically examining at least five canonical and contemporary architectural projects, among which the CCTV building in Beijing is one.

I intend, besides theoretical reflection, to make an atlas of examples – case studies - that show, without becoming a manual - how spatial and aesthetic techniques - (devices such as: windows, facades, trajectory, colour, the envelope, plan section) of different scale, from object to city park, through their estranging potential, mobilise - provoke - install - emancipating alternatives, or in other words create situated freedoms in complex conditions. In short, I am looking for a micro-politics of change that reinvent the idea of publicness through an estranging and spatial aesthetic that enacts new forms of emancipation.