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Table of Contents and Prologue

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Aerial of Black Rock City for the Burning Man Festival, an annual week-long countercultural gathering held in the desert of Nevada. (Image courtesy of GeoEye, Inc, 2009)

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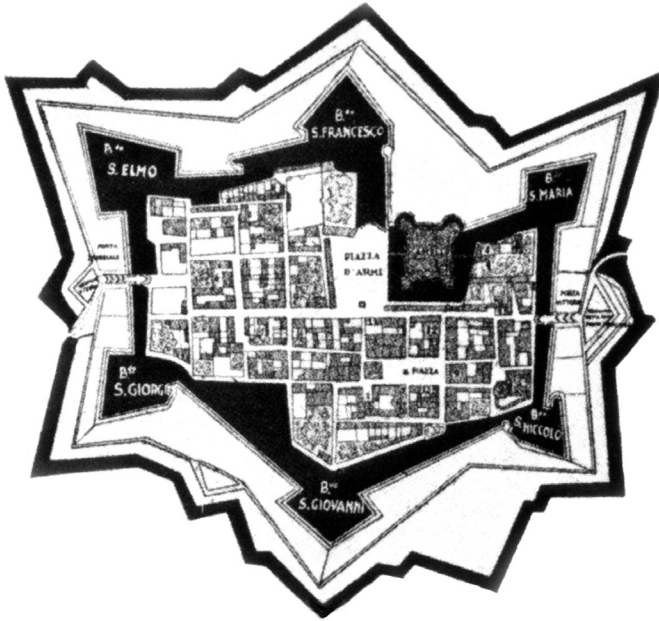
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Prologue



Infrastructure

Networks of infrastructure, long a symbol of progress and technological innovation, have become as invisible as they are ubiquitous. Rethinking infrastructure, recent projects have focused not on singular, monumental pieces of architecture, but on the creation of networks that incubate systemic change within. Aided by new urban theory and advancing technologies—and facing issues of funding, utility, politics, and public opinion—designers have been drawn to infrastructure by a desire to contribute architecture that *performs*.

A re-evaluation of the timeworn modes of practice and design, this issue will examine designers reclaiming infrastructure as an act of placemaking and an agent of change.

Annie Robinson and Bo Steadman, Editors