

## **The Emerging City**

Acts, Design and Assemblages

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# THE EMERGENT CITY: ACTS, DESIGN AND ASSEMBLAGES

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# WHY THE EMERGENT CITY?

An ontologi of becoming in relation to the City (Thrift & Amin 2002)

*Continuation of Reassembling urban space: affects and assemblages/ Performative aesthetics in urban space.*

An urban ontology of becoming offers an alternative to an essentialist understandings of the city  
*#planning, #architecture #urban design, #urban sociologi #urban geography*

# WHY THE EMERGENT CITY?

The *striated* and the *smooth* are not equivalent for urban understanding the city. The war machine is no longer exterior to the state apparatus, it is increasingly becoming a part of it.

The emergent city *#not a polis* associated to the state apparatus, cf. *On nomadology*.



# WHY THE EMERGENT CITY?

**#1 A deterritorialization of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy** into urban studies and empirical investigations of urban becomings  
(radical empiricism: walks, urban neighbourhoods, urban events)

**#2 A deterritorialization of design, art, planning and architecture** in relation to the city as an emergent phenomenon.

“The function of deterritorialization: D is the movement by which “one” leaves the territory. **It is the operation of the line of flight...** D may be overlaid by a compensatory reterritorialization obstructing the lines of flight... Anything can serve as a reterritorialization, in other words, “stand for the lost territory.” (Deleuze and Guattari 1987: 508).

Urban studies may in my case stand for the lost territories

# WHY THE EMERGENT CITY?

1. The City as a plane of consistency: Various stratas
2. Urban assemblages - deducted from the flow
3. Assembled Space - examples
4. Design, art and architecture
5. Ethics

I draw from

**The Geology of Morals:** the diversity within a strata, the diversity among strata, mileus

**Treatise on Nomadology:** The war Machine

(**Of the Refrain:** territoriality, assemblages and interassemblages)



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS





# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

The city is an constantly expanding and transforming plane

The city has become a global machine whith its own logic, nature, emergent patterns, socio-material becomings.



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

STEE

Stratas of nature, culture, ages, materialities...





THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

“The stratas are continually being shaken by phenomena of cracking and rupture (...) everywhere there arise simultaneous acceleration and blockages, comparative speeds, differences in deterritorialization creating relative fields of reterritorialization” (Deleuze & Guattari 1987: 55)

### **#Kathrina and Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans**

Nature causes damage (deterritorialization) which causes urban development (reterritorialization)

Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA  
[http://www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/photo\\_details.do?id=14510](http://www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/photo_details.do?id=14510)



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

## #Kathrina and Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans

Nature causes damage (deterritorialization) which causes urban development (reterritorialization): new reterritorializations are established between the stratas => Energy sufficient houses in a new socio-material neighborhood.

“no doubt that mad physical particles crash through the strata as they accelerate” (D&G: 1987:55)



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS





# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

**“The plane of consistency** knows nothing of differences in level, orders of magnitude, or distances. It knows nothing of the difference between the artificial and the natural. It knows nothing of the distinction between contents and expressions, or that between forms and formed substances; these things exist only by means of and in relation to the strata.”

(Deleuze & Guattari 1987: 69-70)



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

Relations between stratas: relations between history, materiality, ages..



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

## **The plane of consistency: disparate and complex**

“If we consider the plane of consistency we note that the most disparate of things and signs move upon it: a semiotic fragment rubs shoulders with a chemical interaction, an electron clauses into a language, a black hole captures a genetic message, a crystallization produces a passion (the plane of consistency is the abolition of all metaphor. All that consists is real.”  
(Deleuze & Guattari: 1987:69).

The city: a plane of consistency with stratas connected to each other



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

Relations between natures, cultures, time, matter, movement

“Assemblages may group themselves into extremely vast constellations constituting “cultures” or even “ages.” (D&G 1987:406)



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

... not the space/ objects themselves, but the forces binding them together:  
The pincers, the plane of consistency



# THE CITY

THE PLANE OF CONSISTENCY: STRATAS

## The plane of consistency and its stratas

An ontology of process and becoming for the emergent city.

*Intensive*: “Every stratum operates this way: by grasping in its pincers a maximum number of intensities or intensive particles over which it spreads its forms and substances, constituting determinate gradients and thresholds of resonance” (D&G 1987:54)

## Similar ontologies:

/Whitehead: **Processes in Reality**. Various entities, acting and reacting on each other.

/Nigel Thrift and Ash Amin: **Cities** is a “forcefield of passions”, vitalism of *affects* and *agency* (Amin & Thrift 2002, 2004, Thrift 2008)



# 2. URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW



# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW

## Urban assemblages

**An assemblage is necessary for the relation between two strata to come about (...)** assemblages are necessary in order for **the unity of composition enveloped in a stratum**, the relations between a given stratum and the others, and a relation between these strata and the plane of consistency to be organized rather than random. In every respect, **machinic assemblages effectuate the abstract machine insofar as it is developed on the plane of consistency or enveloped in a stratum.** (Deleuze & Guattari 1987:70)

## Urban assemblages perform relations:

“A machinic assemblage is an **interstratum** in so far as it regulates relations between strata”

Assemblages are “at the intersection of all of the strata with the plane of consistency”  
(Deleuze & Guattari 1987:73)

(parastrata, epistrata, metastrata)



# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW

**Urban assemblages are deducted from the flow**

“I will call an assemblage every constellation of singularities, traits deducted from the flow - selected, organized, stratified - in such a way as to converge (consistency) artificially and naturally; an assemblage in this sense, is a veritable invention”...



# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW





# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW





# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW





# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW





# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW

**Why is urban spaces constantly being performed as deductions from the flow?**

"Assemblages are passionate, they are compositions of desire. Desire has nothing to do with a natural or spontaneous determination; there is no desire but assembling, assembled desire. **The rationality, the efficiency, of an assemblage does not exist without the passions the assemblage brings into play**, without the desire that constitute it as much as it constitutes them." (1987:399)



# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW

**Passions:**  
Migration, the inherent passions of an age..



# URBAN ASSEMBLAGES

DEDUCTED FROM THE FLOW

## Passions:

Migration, the inherent passions of an age, gentrification, regeneration, cultures, architecture, art, design...



# 3. DESIGN, ART AND ARCHITECTURE

EXAMPLES OF FORMAL DEDUCTIONS



# ARCHITECTURAL ACTS

Raumlabor Berlin





# ARTISTIC ACTS/PERFORMANCES

METROPOLIS 2008





# ARTISTIC ACTS/PERFORMANCES

mit sande jeg, den som jeg altid ville  
være, og ikke den her person, som jeg  
ikke vil være, som jeg kæmper imod."

METROPOLIS 2008



# ARTISTIC ACTS



*Francys Alÿs: Sometimes Making Something Leads to Nothing*



# ARTISTIC ACTS/PERFORMANCES



Francys Alÿs: *When faith moves mountains*



# TEMPORARY DESIGN







# TEMPORARY DESIGN

Carlsberg City, Copenhagen



# TEMPORARY DESIGN



# VERNACULAR DESIGN/ART



LOPPEMARKED  
Loppemarked på plenen 1984  
Loppemarked på plenen 1984  
Loppemarked på plenen 1984  
Loppemarked på plenen 1984



# URBAN DESIGN, CAMPAIGNS

**Campaign of the minister of Culture, Uffe Elbæk:** territorialization of space (passion in politics), deterritorializes through the intensities of the city. emergent meaning. organic form



# URBAN DESIGN, CAMPAIGNS

**Campaign of the minister of Culture, Uffe Elbæk:** territorialization of space (passion, politics), deterritorializes through the intensities of the city. emergent meaning. organic forms



# 4 ETHICS IN DESIGN, ART, ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

DETERRITORIALIZING DELEUZE, DETERITORIALIZIING ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND ART

“Here, the associated milieus are closely related to organic forms. An organic form is not a simple structure but a structuration, the constitution of an associated milieu (...) **one certainly cannot say that the milieu determines the form;** but to complicate things, this does not make the relation between form and milieu less decisive. **Since the form depends on an autonomous code, it can only be constituted in an associated milieu that interlaces active, perceptive and energetic characteristics in a complex fashion,** in conformity with the code's requirements; and the form can develop only through intermediary milieus that regulate the speeds and rates of its substances” (D&G: 1987: 51-52)



# 4 ETHICS IN DESIGN, ART, ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

DETERRITORIALIZING DELEUZE, DETERRITORIALIZING ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND ART

I propose this model, where **form is defined as *structuration***, as an associated milieu and organic form. #Not form imposed upon matter, but increasingly to tap the forces of heterogeneous urban environments.

“It (form) can only be constituted in an associated milieu that interlaces, active, perceptive, and energetic characteristics.” (D&G 1987:51).

Rethinking art, design, planning and architecture as **relational, emergent and organic acts** in the city.



# 4 ETHICS IN DESIGN, ART, ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

DETERRITORIALIZING DELEUZE, DETERRITORIALIZING ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND ART

Design, art, architecture, planning initiatives must be regarded as organic forms deducted from the urban flow

Participating as lines of flight in already existing urban assemblages - they should be passionate, indeed, but passionate connecting to the entire urban assemblage.

The possibility (virtual to actual) to deterritorialize and reterritorialize existing space, but not not as intentional acts.

**“Evolution takes place from the virtual to actual.”** (Bergsonism 1991:98)

Spatial deterritorialization and reterritorialization take place all the time.

// Art, design and architecture should not be seen as tool for transformation, but as co-existing agencies in the emergent city.

The war machine is no longer exterior to the state apparatus. Neither is art, architecture and design. It's increasingly becoming an inherent force operating within the city as a plane of consistence.



# THE EMERGENT CITY: ACTS, DESIGN AND ASSEMBLAGES

