ARCHITECTURE WITHOUT EXTRACTION

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The year is 2044. Two decades ago, a global moratorium on new construction was implemented and enforced. It was accompanied by a string of laws regulating extraction and demolition worldwide, and restorative policies now underpin all construction.

One of the most powerful of these policies was not the digging ban as much as its less coercive counterpart: the soil incentive. Composting is how everything humans gardens are everywhere. Entire territories are being restored to their fertile conditions. It’s a hot mess.

You know, production is deeply cooperative. Humans can’t do that alone.

Elaine Ingham

A handful of healthy soil can contain millions of lives of ten thousand different species.

We require each other in unexpected collaborations and combinations. Do not destroy soil.

Donna Haraway
LIVING TOGETHER IS NOT ALWAYS EASY.
Merged lifestyles mean we need to find ways to cohabit, and tensions must be turned into productive negotiations. These confrontations help to fuse housing and domesticity and to establish a common transference for reproductive labour.

THE REHABILITATION OF SERVANTS’ RIGHTS IN THE ULTIMATE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HOME-CARING INDUSTRY IS BURDENSOME TO ALL OF US, A MOST OF SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND LIVING ORGANISMS OF ALL SORTS. NO MORE CARE WORK! INSTEAD, COLLECTIVE CARE.

THE ERADICATION OF INDIVIDUALIST REPRODUCTIVE LABOUR IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CREATION OF COMMON, DELICIOUS SPACES. AS THE DEMAND FOR PROFIT-ORIENTED ENTREPRENEURIAL LAYOUTS FADES, ARCHITECTURE HAS FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD.

ONE OF THE WAYS THE DISCIPLINE WAS ABLE TO REINVENT ITSELF WAS THANKS TO REWIRED TECHNOLOGIES, SELF-DISASSEMBLING AND REASSEMBLING ENDLESSLY, CYBORG-LIKE.

THESE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE FLUENT IN REPARATIVE DESIGNS: THEY CONSTANTLY SUSTAIN THE SPACES WE LIVE IN.

BRICK CARTOGRAPHER
MATERIAL NURSE
MAINTENANCE ARCHITECT
BUILDING SURGEON
DESIGN PSYCHOLOGIST
ENVIRONMENTAL HOUSEKEEPER
DISASSEMBLY ENGINEER
HOME ARCHAEOLOGIST

"NONE OF THIS WORK IS EVER REALLY FINISHED BECAUSE SOMETHING SOUNDS LIKE BEING BROKEN DRAWS IN NEW FORMS OF NEED AND DESIRE."

GEAMS JANITOR
SEED LIBRARIAN
CLEANER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)
WOOD FRAME RADIOGRAPHER
Nurturing a building beyond obsolescence means it is constantly evolving, materials added and subtracted, parts dismantled and reused to avoid extractivism. A global library of repair knowledge for structural and material care. Solutions like replastering, mending, braces, shoring, planks, seining, welding etc has overwritten the way of ‘building right’ that was the standard claim for so long.

We have moved from this high-tech heavy western know-how to more fluid construction techniques, and have updated our ways of dealing with space, of living in space.

"To design radical repair [...] we need to delve into all aspects of architecture's frameworks - its historical formation, its tools of representation, its academic structure and its professional organisation." Mabel Wilson 'radical repair'

This is a world in which a moratorium on new construction is a fact rather than an academic idea. Extraction is heresy and soil is a precious matter on which we rely for sustenance, elevating composting and humus production as a sacred task. Decentralized, degendered, depatriarchalised and decolonised reproductive and domestic work is shared by humans and non-humans alike. Repair labour has become the most valuable of all; constructing is simply about a precise management of resources and architecture. A careful working out of the reallocation of reclaimed materials. Technology is a friend and not an enemy, and such an approach, with its roots in circular economy, anti-extractivism, and the ideas of black- and eco-feminism, is a mainstream modus operandi. It is a widespread, common and banal reality to live in careful cities, in attentive societies - a life worth living for.