

Core Dump for a Crashed Planet

Julian Priest

A prospectus for a public art work





June 2008

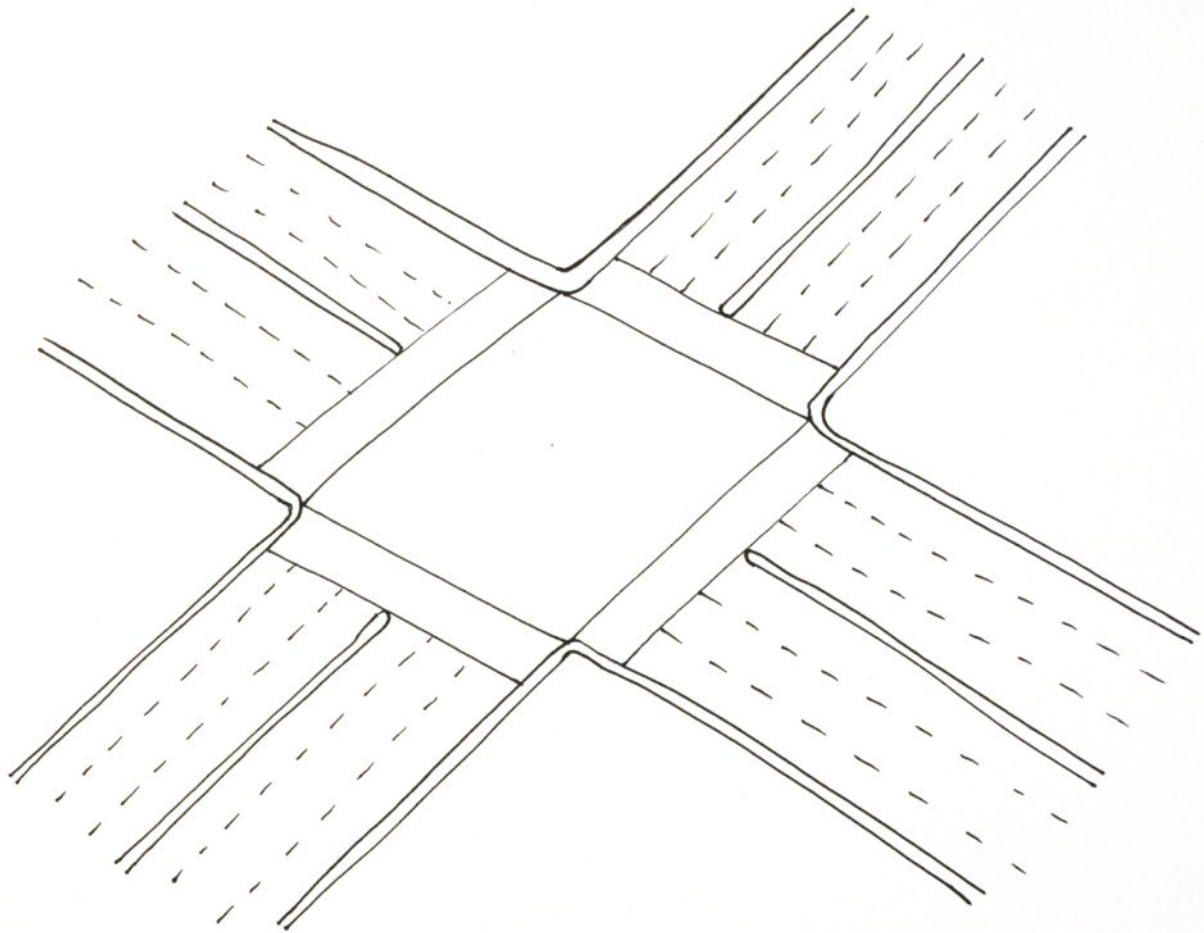


Strata

0	Towards the end of the early Pleistocene, sedimentary rock is laid down.
320000	Nebraskan Glacial end
545000	Aftonian interglacial end
620000	Kansan glacial end
800000	Origin of homo sapiens
	Yarmouth interglacial end
870000	Illinoian glacial end
890000	Sangamon interglacial end
988000	Wisconsin glacial end
1001640	Foundation of New Haven Green as a common
1001879	Road ploughing passive resistance campaign of Te Whiti
1001904	Columbus Circle opened as first US roundabout
1001978	Publication of 'Permaculture One'

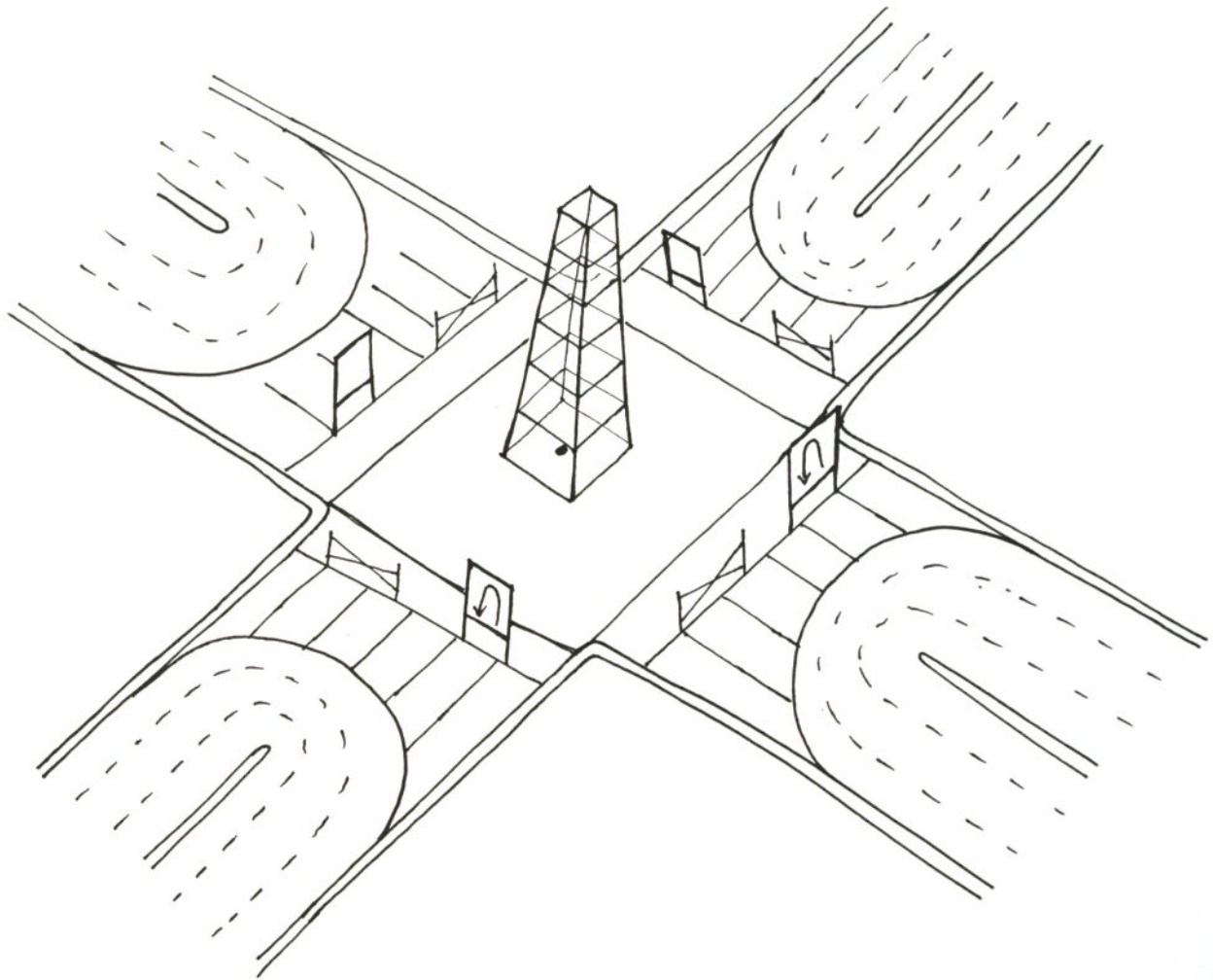
1002008 **1** An artist proposes drilling an exploratory bore at a busy road intersection in the centre of the city.

- 1002009 Planning process initiated.
Consultations with City and State Departments, community groups, and business.
- 1002010  Designs are finalised.
Planning applications are approved.
A large drilling derrick is erected.
Commuters coming to the intersection by car are turned away by U-turn signs.
Cyclists and pedestrians can pass on cycle ways and paths - free parking is provided.
Drilling continues for over a month.
A 300m core sample capped with road surface, representing ~ 1 million years of climate history is extracted.
A team at a local university geology department analyse the core for climate indicators such as fossilised pollen.
-  The bore hole hits an aquifer and a water supply is created.
The drilling rig is decommissioned; pulled over by a group of people with a rope, it crashes down at the site.
The road surface at the intersection is broken up.
People are invited to take away rubble as souvenirs.
Digging at the site continues until dirt is hit.
People are invited to bring in grass clippings to create compost for the garden.
The garden is planted with indicator species that are sensitive to climatic fluctuations including trees.
-  A circular display is built around the garden for the core sample and annotated with research findings.
A legal structure based on a community land trust turns the garden into a common that will persist for generations.
The common's management, maintenance, and use is opened to the public.
The intersection is changed into a roundabout increasing carrying capacity.
The roundabout is closed to fossil fueled vehicles.
Spare road lanes are dug up and planted with vegetable gardens.
Cycle lanes, foot paths, and access tunnels are built.
The common's species are monitored for growth, health and climate response.
Information is shared with community gardens, the city, and research institutes.
A visitor centre is built as a hub for climate education.
Shade trees reduce local temperature.
- 1002108  The common's microclimate changes.
Trees on the common reach maturity.



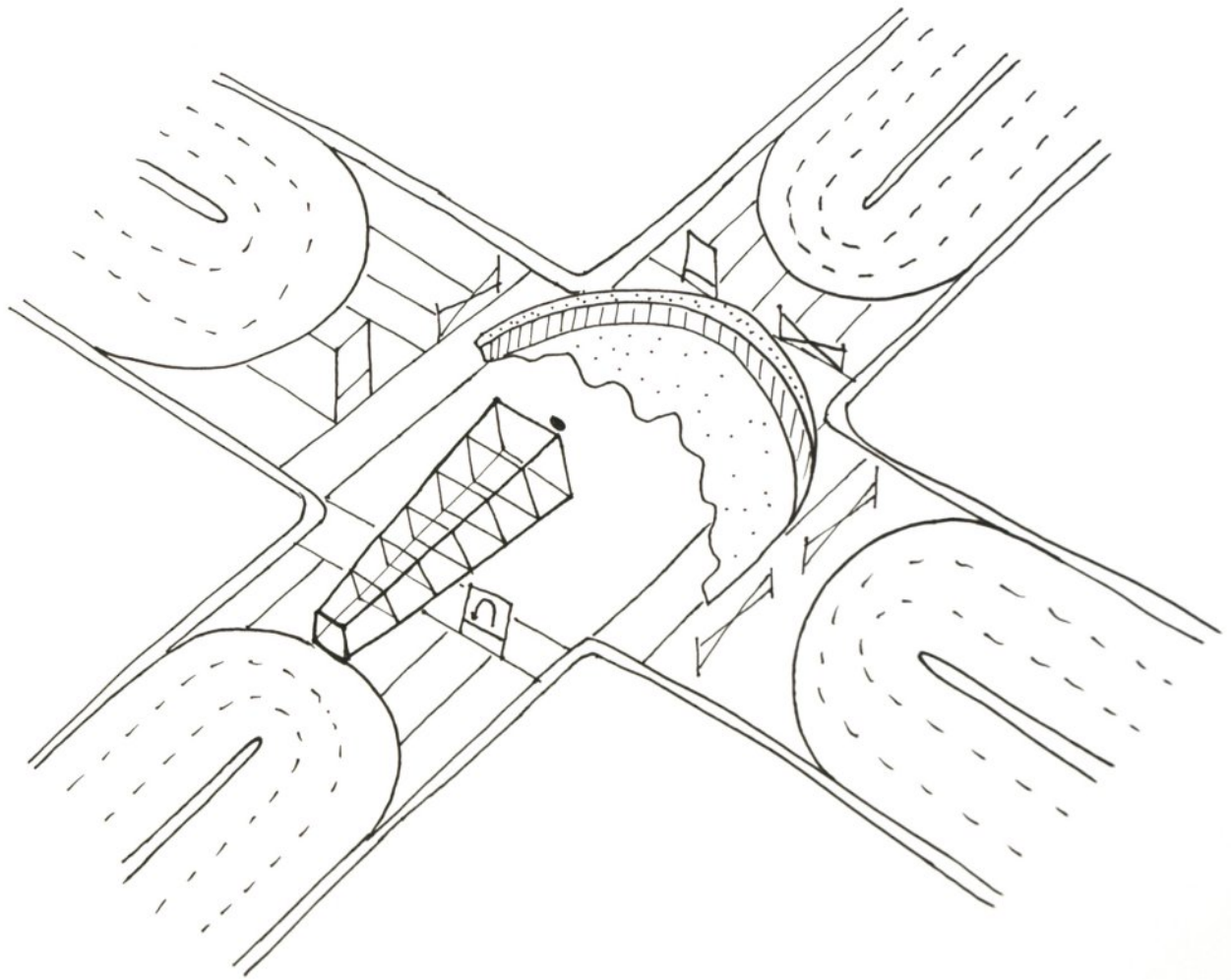
Intersection

A busy 3 lane 4 way stop intersection in the centre of the city is chosen as the site. Planning and consultation processes are initiated with local administrations.



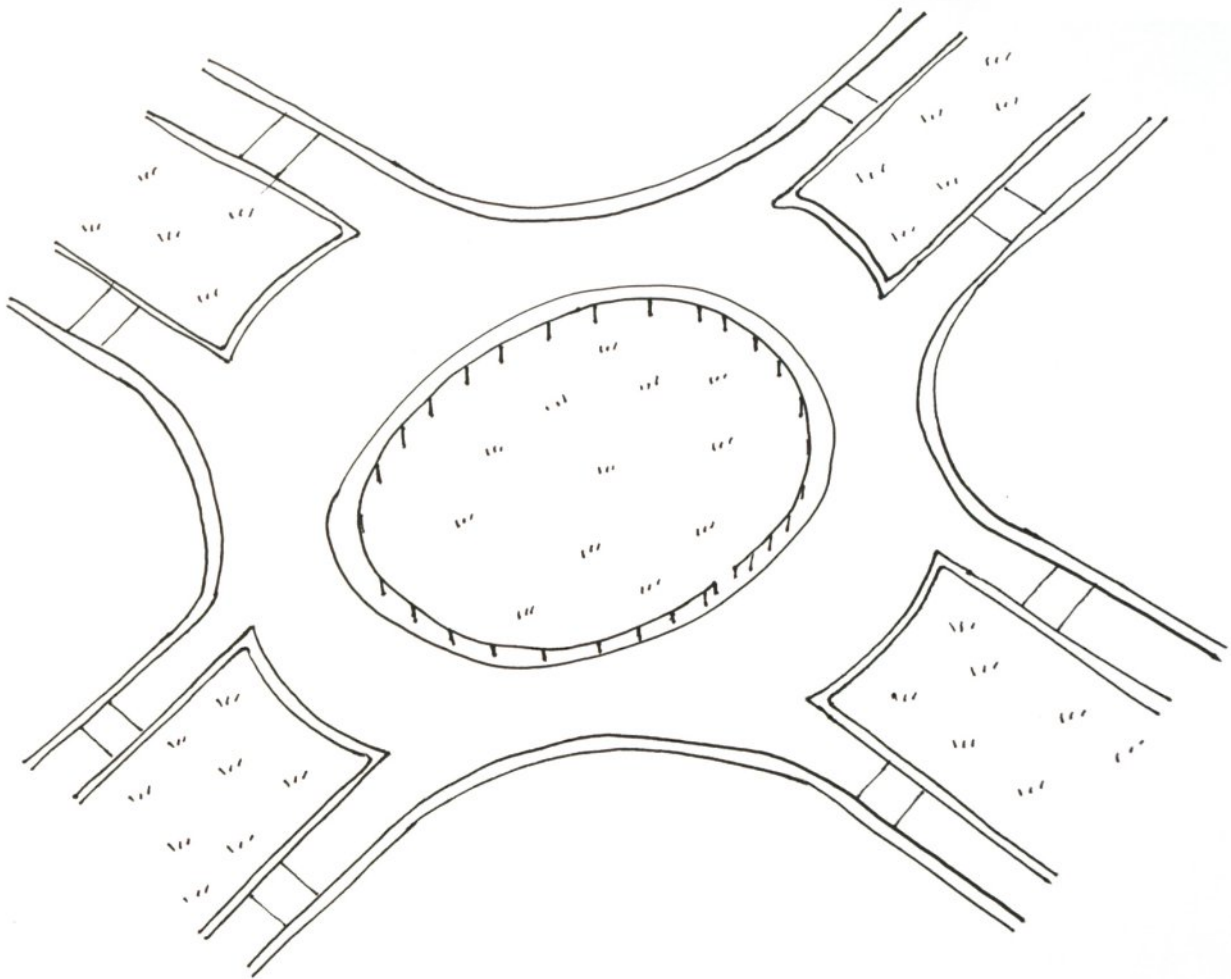
Derrick

A drilling derrick is erected at the intersection. The construction site is fenced off and cars are turned back by U-turn diversion signs. The traffic flow in the centre of the city is disrupted apparently by oil exploration as geologists drill beneath the city for a core sample.



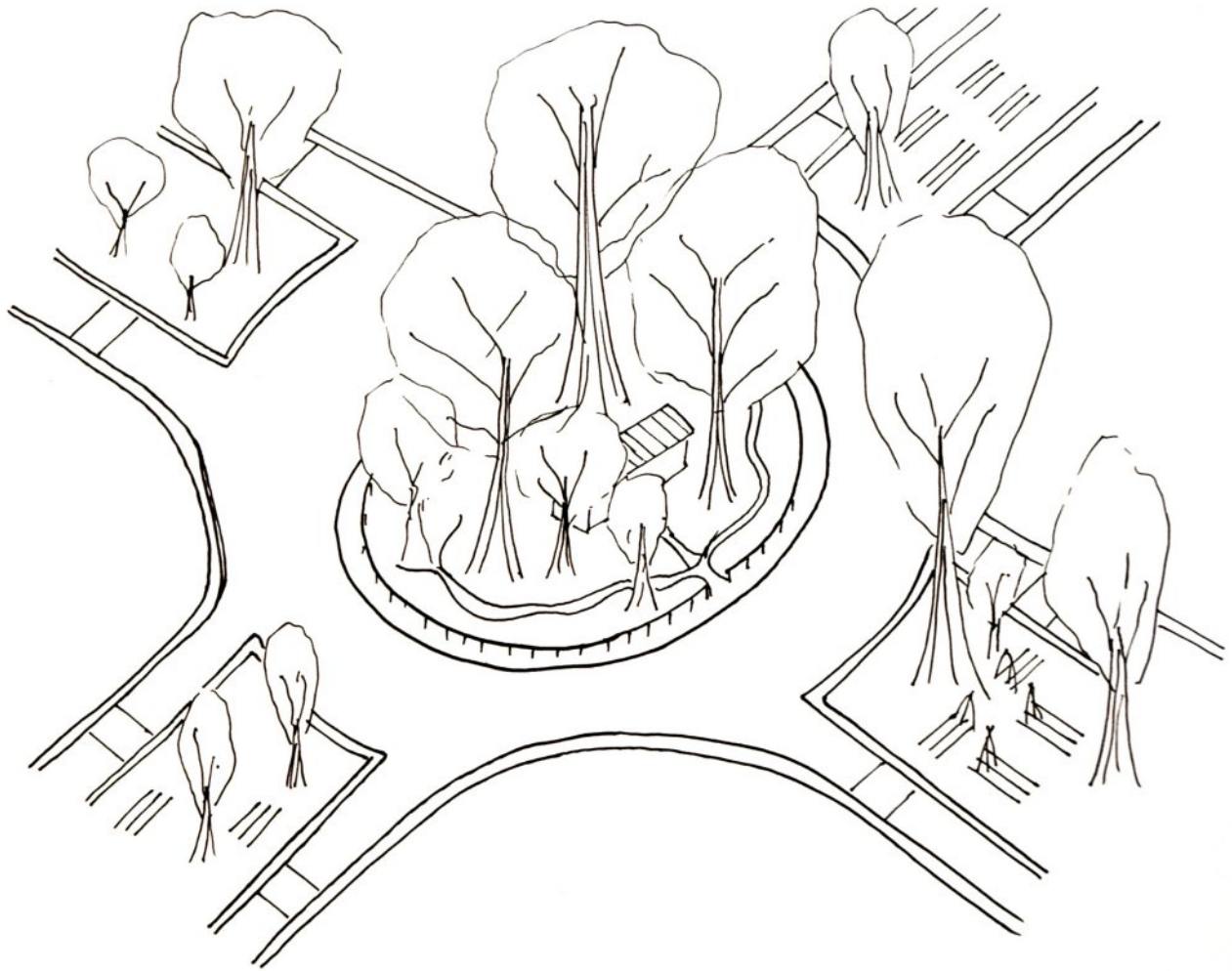
Diggers

The derrick is decommissioned by hand and the road surface dug up to reveal the earth beneath. Visitors to the site are offered pieces of rubble to take away as souvenirs. The site is prepared for a new garden.



Common

The road layout of the intersection is changed to a roundabout, smoothing traffic flow. The road is reduced in size and access is only allowed to zero emission vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. Organic material is added to the centre of the roundabout to form a garden. The core sample from the drilling is analysed for climate data and displayed around the perimeter showing the last 1 million years of local climate history.



Microclimate

The garden is managed by a community land trust and planted with climate indicator species. A visitor centre is built as a site of environmental education. Over the next hundred years a new urban microclimate is created beneath the shade of mature trees.

Acknowledgements

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Julian Priest

Julian Priest is an artist and researcher. He was an early community wireless networker and became an activist and advocate for the freenetworking movement, exploring wireless networking as a theme in fields of arts, development, and policy.

He was co-founder of the consume.net project and one of the instigators of WSFII, the world summits on free information infrastructures, an international series of events to promote grass roots information infrastructures. He has commented on radio spectrum policy and co-founded policy intervention OpenSpectrum UK to advocate an open spectrum in the public interest, in Europe and the UK.

Since 2005 he has developed an artistic practice around participatory and collaborative forms and shows internationally. His current interests are themes around the physical and cultural boundaries between technology and the environment, and the connection between energy and information. He is based in Whanganui, New Zealand where is director of project room 'The Green Bench'. He is a board member of the Aotearoa Digital Arts trust and lecturer in creative technologies with the Interdisciplinary unit at A.U.T University in Auckland.

Selected Exhibitions

Point of Presence, The Performance Arcade, Te Papa Waterfront, 21.02.2011
Drift Plastic Collection, Burn, The Green Bench, Whanganui, *.12.2010
Carbon Clamp, Govett Brewster, 2010
The Snow Line, Govett Brewster, 2010
The Political Spectrum, D21 Leipzig 2010
I speak; I lie, Aotearoa Digital Arts Symposium, 2009
Energy Hike, The Green Bench, Whanganui, New Zealand *.02.2009
The Political Spectrum Review, Waves 2, HMKV, Dortmund, Germany *.08.2009
Terms of Endearment, Futuresonic Cube Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom *.05.2009
A Geekosystem, The Physics Room, Christchurch, New Zealand *.02.2008
The Political Spectrum, Waves, National Museum, Riga, Latvia *.11.2006
Joindot, Open Congress, Tate Britain, UK 15.10.2005
Playing Card Based Routing Protocols, DMZ, Limehouse Town Hall, UK 11-14.09.2003

Selected Performances and Talks

SCANZ Eco Spaiens Hui - The Future Network performance 16.01.2011
Ada Symposium - Energetics and Informatics, Whanganui 18.12.2010
Dialogues with Tomorrow: Downstage Theatre, Wellington 03.06.2010
Electrosmog Festival of Sustainable Immobility: - multiple network locations 18-20.03.2010
The wedding between art and agriculture: Kalmar Konstmuseum, Sweden 10.03.2010
Energy - RIXC, Riga, Latvia 08-10.10.2009
Ada Symposium - Critical Digital Matter, Wellington, New Zealand 26-28.06.2009
Interactive Screen '08 – Sustain 24-29.08.2008
The Upgrade! - Wellington – 23.07.2008
Govett Brewster – Artist talk 26.03.2008
Ada Symposium – 02.2008
Interactive Screen '07 – Banff New Media Institute, Banff, Canada 12-17.08.2007
Waves National Museum, Riga Latvia– RIXC 2006
Almost Perfect – BNMI, Banff, Canada 08.2006
Wsfii.London - Lime House Town Hall, London, UK, 26.09 – 2.10.2005
Wireless Utopias – Dana Centre, Science Museum, London 26.05.2005
PLAN – ICA London 1-2.02.2005
Future Urban Infrastructures – Architectural Association, London, UK 18.01.2005
Pervasive Connections – Space Studios. London, UK 16.04.2005
Fresh Air Free Networks Norre Djurs Hallen, Djursland, Denmark 03-10.09.2004
Open Systems - Goethe Institute/V2 lab - Rotterdam - 27.11.2003
Digital Media Zone - Limehouse Town Hall, London, UK - 14-15.11.2003
Freifunk Summer Convention – Berlin, Germany - 12-13.09.2003
Open Cultures – Vienna, Austria - 04-06.06.2003
Danish WSIS prep com (UNDA) - Copenhagen - .08-09.2003
The Copenhagen Interpolation - Copenhagen - 01-02.03.2003
Berlin - Bootlab, Berlin 10-12.10.2002
A History of Consume - Centro Nacional De las Artes, Mexico City DF - 21.05.2001

Selected Publications

The Political Spectrum, 2011 Transmission Arts: Artists and Airwaves, PAJ Publications
The Future Network, 2011 Junctures - The Journal for Thematic Dialogue: Unseen, Otago Polytechnic Press
Information Energy 01, 2010 Energy, Acoustic Space 8, 2010, Rixc
Whois Energy, 2009 Energy conference reader, Rixc.
The Political Spectrum, 2009 The Wireless Spectrum, University of Toronto Press.
Internet;Environment, 2008 Aotearoa Digital Arts Reader, Cloud 2008.
The Political Spectrum, 2008, Waves - The Art of the Electromagnetic Society, Hartware MedienKunst Verein.
The Visual Spectrum, 2007, Spectropia Acoustic Space 7 2008
The State of Wireless London, 2004, I Dat and Acoustic Space 4: Transcultural Mapping

Contact

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