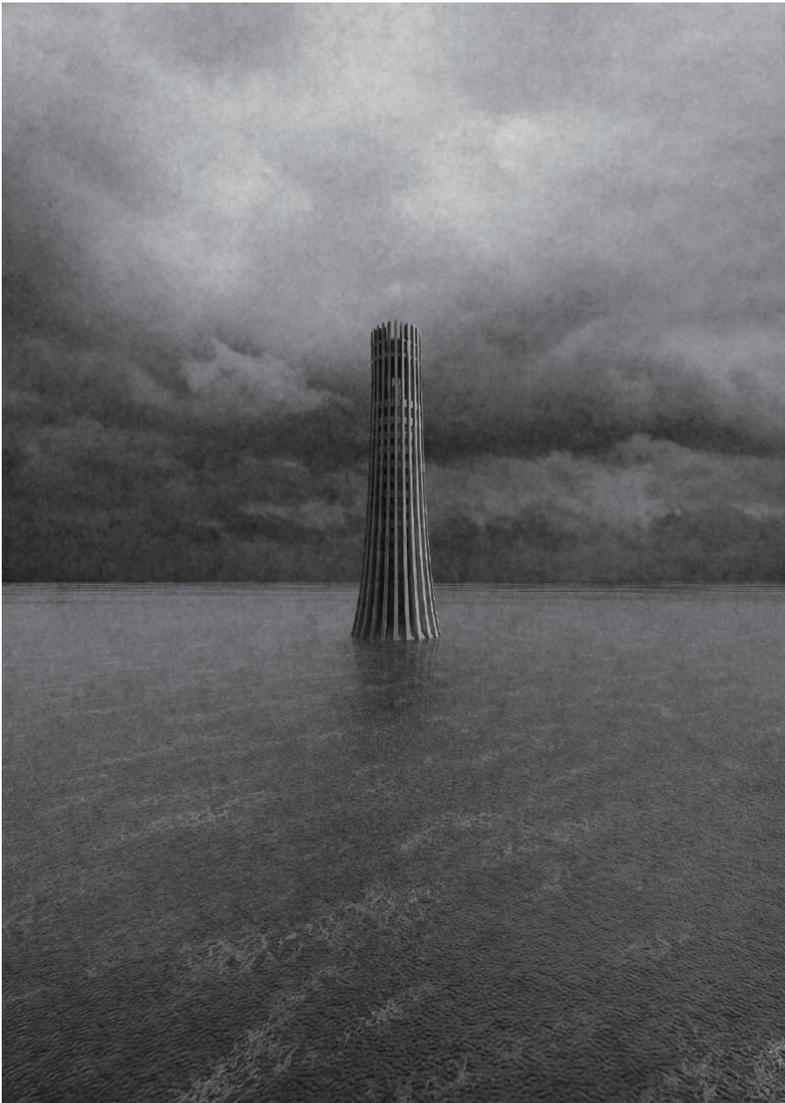


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IDEAS, REPRESENTATIONS / APPLICATIONS AND FABRICATIONS

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The Solid Matter(s) of Digital Nature: Multiscalar Technologies of World Urbanization

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Abstract

Nowadays, predominant approaches to urban planning are commonly driven by ecological and cybernetic narratives, thus focusing on sustainability and smart cities principles. These trends arguably arise as a response to the two major conditions of our contemporary societies: 1) we live in an urban world, and 2) we live in a digital world. This paper will look at the intersection of these two fundamental paradigms, and particularly at the way they are reshaping the idea of our contemporary *world*; a world increasingly urban and digital. Furthermore, it will present a broad historical perspective of data based urbanism through the work of Ildefons Cerdà's and his "Teoría General de la Urbanización" of 1867. If most of the international attention gathered around the work of the Catalan engineer has typically focused on hygiene, circulation and morphological unity, most important for the

success of his General Theory of Urbanisation as an intended theory of practice was the scientific and methodological organisation of a territorial system, from the collection and production of data and statistics to the design of legal instruments of space management. Last, it will explore how this new theoretical and technological framework has triggered a process of world urbanisation, thus radically transforming the way in which we conceive, design and inhabit the new space of the *world*. The interplay of geographical space and virtual space will be scrutinised by looking at their material origins and effects in order to disentangle the multiple scales of digital urbanisation, from planetary networks of information and communication technologies to the urbanisation of our human bodies.

Short Bio

Adrià Carbonell is an architect and urban designer. He is a lecturer at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, and has previously held teaching positions at KU Leuven, Umeå University and the American University of Sharjah. He is also founder of the research platform Aside, where he writes on the relationships between architecture, urbanism and geography. His writings have been published in Zarch Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Architecture and Urbanism, San Rocco, MONU and Cartha, among others.