Giraffe at the Bar

Rebel Planning Fragments for a City in Waiting

Our images – the maps and models of the world we carry around with us – need larger and much more relevant information inputs. Only then can our visions of a larger world in which we are all linked together, and are responsible for one another, grow to match the human-created problems we shall all face shortly.

Rodney Gould & Peter White, **Mental Maps,** 1974

TERON'S STRUCTURE OF DISCOURSE.

NCC

HELLO?

LAND + MONEY EXCHANGE

CITY OF OTTAWA

LAND + MONEY EXCHANGE

COMPETITION DESIGN

LAND + MONEY EXCHANGE

ARCHITECT

DEVELOPER

POLITICAL SUPPORT

VISION + REALITY

INPUT

QUALITY CONTROL

RESIDENT BUYERS

BYSTANDER
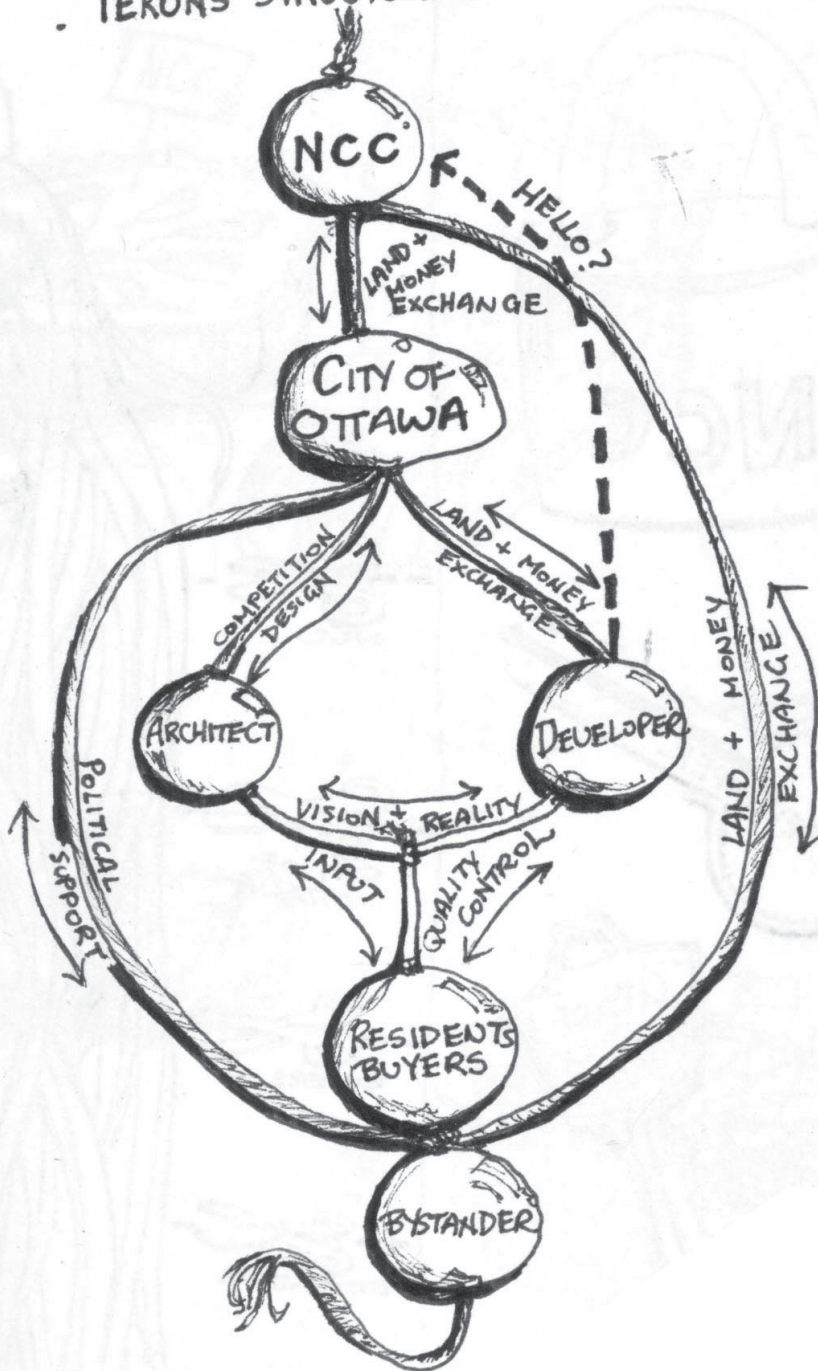
"A city is a place where people can learn to live with strangers."

Does it matter who says such words, does it matter to which expert, planner, sociologist, novelist or statistician we turn? If architecture as a system of change implies known and unknown quantities, then a system of change invites architecture of known and unknown quantities. If you think data is just data think again. If you think design is a belief system think again. The Greenbelt Studio at the school of Architecture & Urbanism (Carleton University) offers a series of interrelated, collaborative research enquiries. Open-ended, even unformed, these attempt to negotiate the unused contemporary moment in the profession and discipline of architecture. Using what is known as Mr Teron's Utopia as a departure, with no particular prejudice and preference for any solution, the students attempt to assess, define, re-define and re-script the urban options around Ottawa's Greenbelt. A subjective atlas of Ottawa and the Greenbelt might give way to a psychogeography exercise. Other potentially unformed visions might emerge as do the illusions planning still plays on cities. The studio could also entertain even a second life. Word-Image chains produce serious cartoons, drawings and exercises in what we might call the architectural grasp. These are architectural representations beyond the diagram that must try and communicate in the vacuum of contemporary planning. Whatever agendas detected, discovered and scripted, architecture will be seen as a necessary partner, shaper and collaborator in the agendas made possible. Student or architect will not escape the motives, drivers and distortions of the potential solutions available. Re-framing the architect's own contemporary role in city planning, in urban issues, in the 21st century is a conceit beyond us, we think! The scripts are ours and yours: any weakness available to turn into strength.
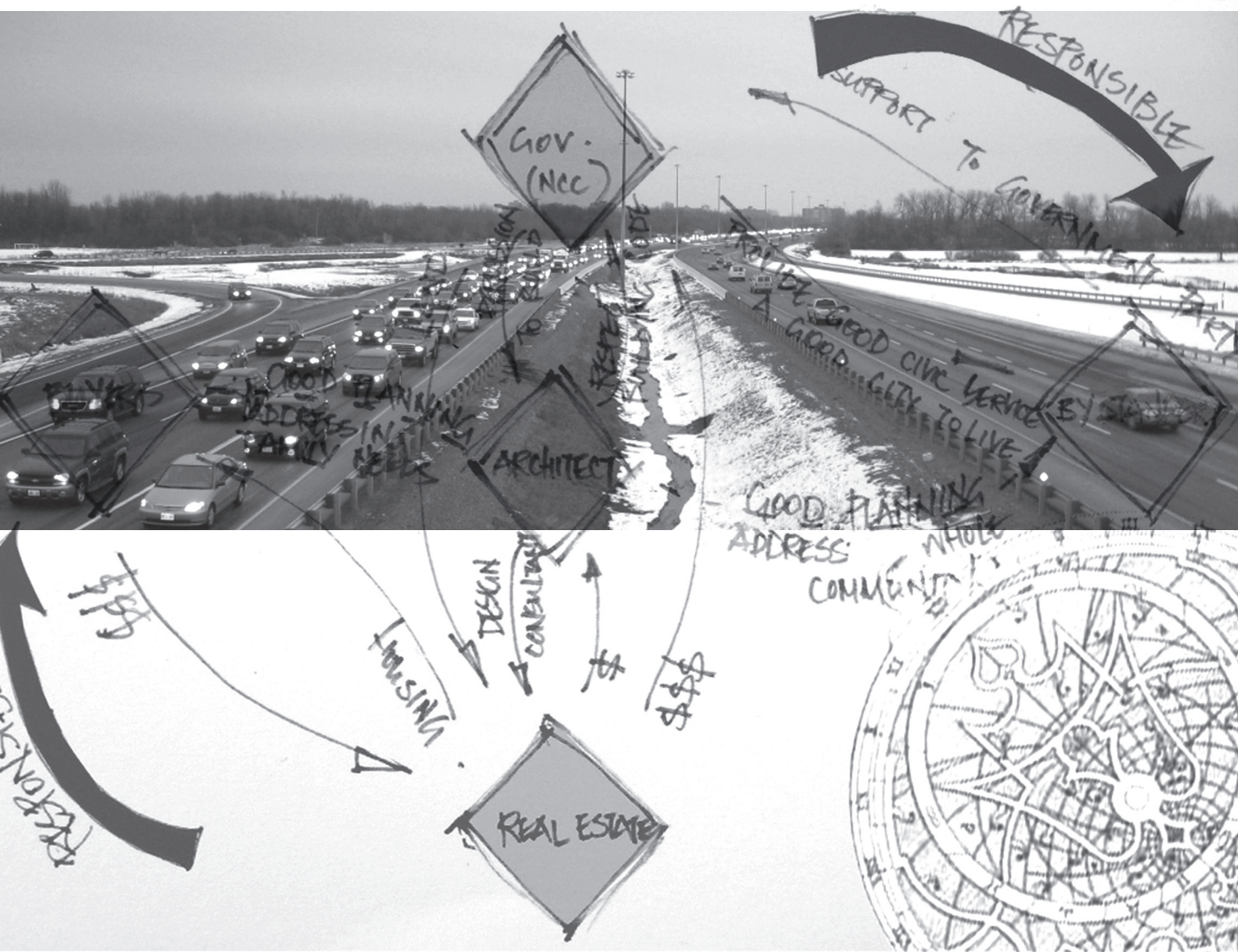
search for a method - program - analysing the idea, urban and economic planning issues – the point of departure- the Greenbelt and its relation to Ottawa City, past, present and future understanding how to prepare the (any) program using research, interviews, mapping (with the city, NCC, the developers including Mr Teron and other relevant bodies) – each student becomes involved in framing the potential rebel planning ideas for architecture under these conditions.

narrative using the search for a method to develop a 'position' leading to a more detailed understanding of the conditions that make this architectural/urban idea possible (the political dimension) and the potential urban concepts 'project' to emerge from this (still possibly responding to, but obviously developing further, any ideas emerging from Mr Teron's 'string of pearls' diagram).

beyond the diagram an inter-disciplinary process when the students turn this initial provocation into a series of urban options for Ottawa and the Greenbelt.

scripts leading to a the wall of urban options exploring the options momentarily invented and the conditions that make these possible - if we change communication do we change architecture or just go along for the ride?

Only when we realize the way in which our collective perceptions are controlled and biased by our location in streams of information can we begin to break out of the judgmental prison in which we are all trapped in greater or lesser selves.

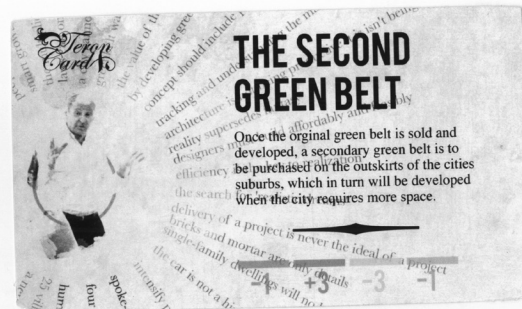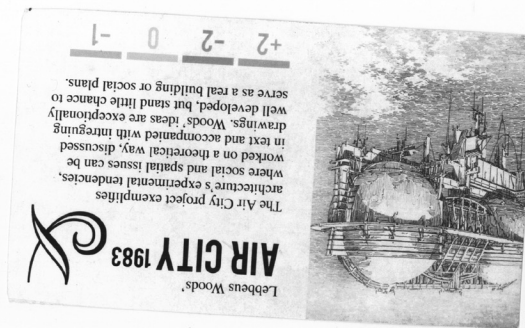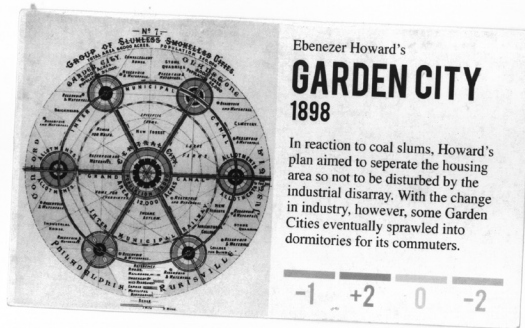Rodney Gould & Peter White, **Mental Maps**, 1974

urban greenbelt follies
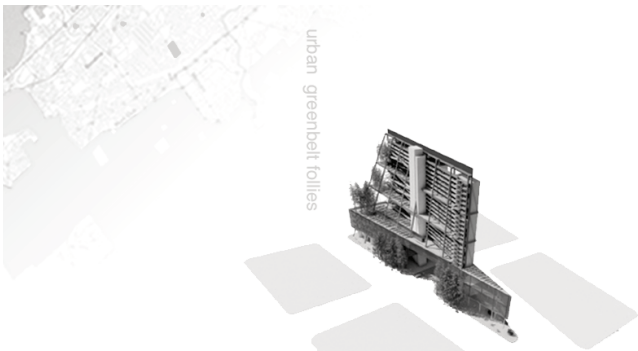
GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING

The Greenbelt is a set of impositions. To some it is hope in a city planning, the latter not always as hopeless or void of ideas as we think. To others it is more than a map made up of fragments that can represent nostalgia, forgotten nature, the myth of open land and/or re-directed sustainability. In other words the Greenbelt can be located in the mind anywhere between the dream of a lost wilderness reality and the attraction of an 'affordable paradise'.

We have to go beyond the diagram, beyond the maps and the words used to hold the other maps back. It might mean opening ourselves to ridicule, it might mean talking about 'rebel planning' when we have no firm grasp on such urgency.

Ebenezer Howard's

GARDEN CITY
1898

In reaction to coal slums, Howard's plan aimed to seperate the housing area so not to be disturbed by the industrial disarray. With the change in industry, however, some Garden Cities eventually sprawled into dormitories for its commuters.

| -1 | +2 | 0 | -2 |

Superstudio's

CONTINUOUS MONUMENT 1969

The massive glass structures proposed in the Continuous Monument drawings are meant to assert rational order of nature in a nurturing manner. The theoretical project suggesting a single type of architecture around the world is considered a commentary on previous utopian proposals.

| +3 | -1 | +1 | -1 |

Lebbeus Woods'

AIR CITY 1983

The Air City project exemplifies architecture's experimental tendencies, where social and spatial issues can be worked on a theoretical way, discussed in text and accompanied with intreguing drawings. Woods' ideas are exceptionally well developed, but stand little chance to serve as a real building or social plans.

| +2 | -2 | 0 | -1 |

Teron Card

THE SECOND GREEN BELT

Once the orginal green belt is sold and developed, a secondary green belt is to be purchased on the outskirts of the cities suburbs, which in turn will be developed when the city requires more space.

| +3 | -3 | -1 |

The words we choose to describe the city may continue to beguile us as much as offer solutions. It is not enough to characterize such Greenbelt zone as a single space, a potentially gridlocked car park, or the chance of a winter skier altering all pathways in a winter zone.

A greenbelt: a zone of nature, myth and intimacy; a strip of land of variable size; a British idea, a garden city idea, a dream, a defence, a lung, a metaphor, an illusion, a sanctuary. In 1950 Jacques Greber proposed a greenbelt as part of his master plan for Ottawa, and the federal government started expropriating land in 1956.

Expropriation is an important word here; for the freedom of space to occur, for plans to develop, there's always someone or some parts of society who suffer. Recent clearances in Beijing for the Chinese Olympics demonstrate the never-ending politics of expropriation and re-location. In sum, no one is exempt this condition - cities change at all times. Each city is a user's manual of secret life. It includes the parts the city does not reach. This is the Greenbelt

How would we consider the densification of existing Ottawa; what developments are impossible rather than possible? Is it in the public interest, the developer asks, to use some of that expropriated land to address these problems and to maintain a qualitative growth in shaping the national capital? Greber's green city paradise had its motives in post-war Ottawa (& Canada) – what are the conditions today?

"Greber's vision of a green city paradise for all people did enhance Ottawa's beauty and its spirit as a place to live, which attracted many companies and many people to show Ottawa as their preferred place to be." (Teron) Is it possible to use such an idea as a departure, as a visionary exercise, or does this have an uncanny similarity to the old Irish joke: an American in Dublin asks where is the post office...answer: well I wouldn't start from here?

LIVING LAYER

VOID

COLLISION IN THE LANDSCAPE.
AN INTERRUPTION IN THE FABRIC
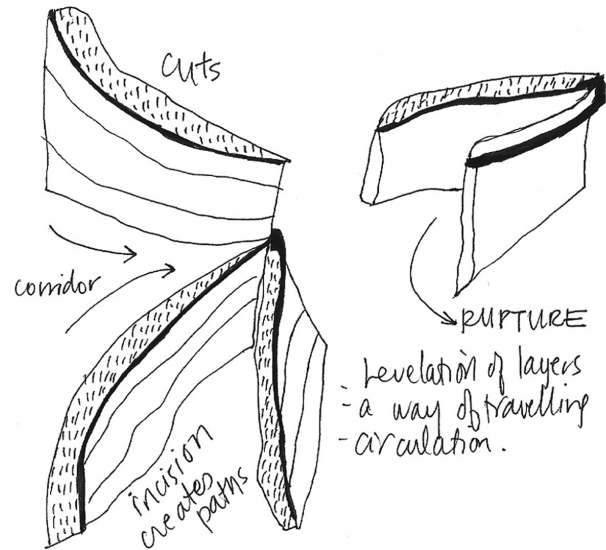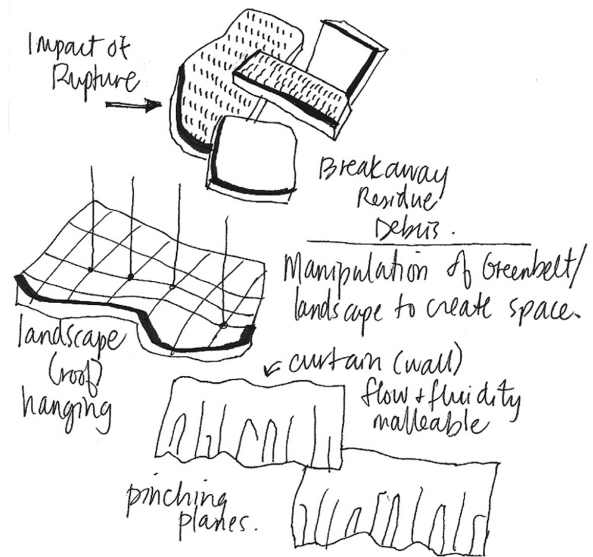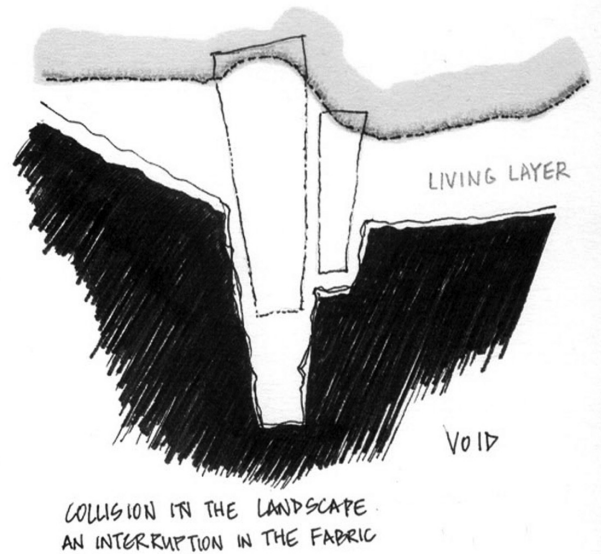
The doubling of Ottawa in 50 years! From a 1.5 million growth eventually to 3 to 4 million? Are these realistic predictions? Is there any reason to believe that planning and population increase will continue at this scale – along the lines of a master plan invented in 2008 - what are the population and demographic forecasts? What are the normative assumptions buried in the plan: secretly, openly?
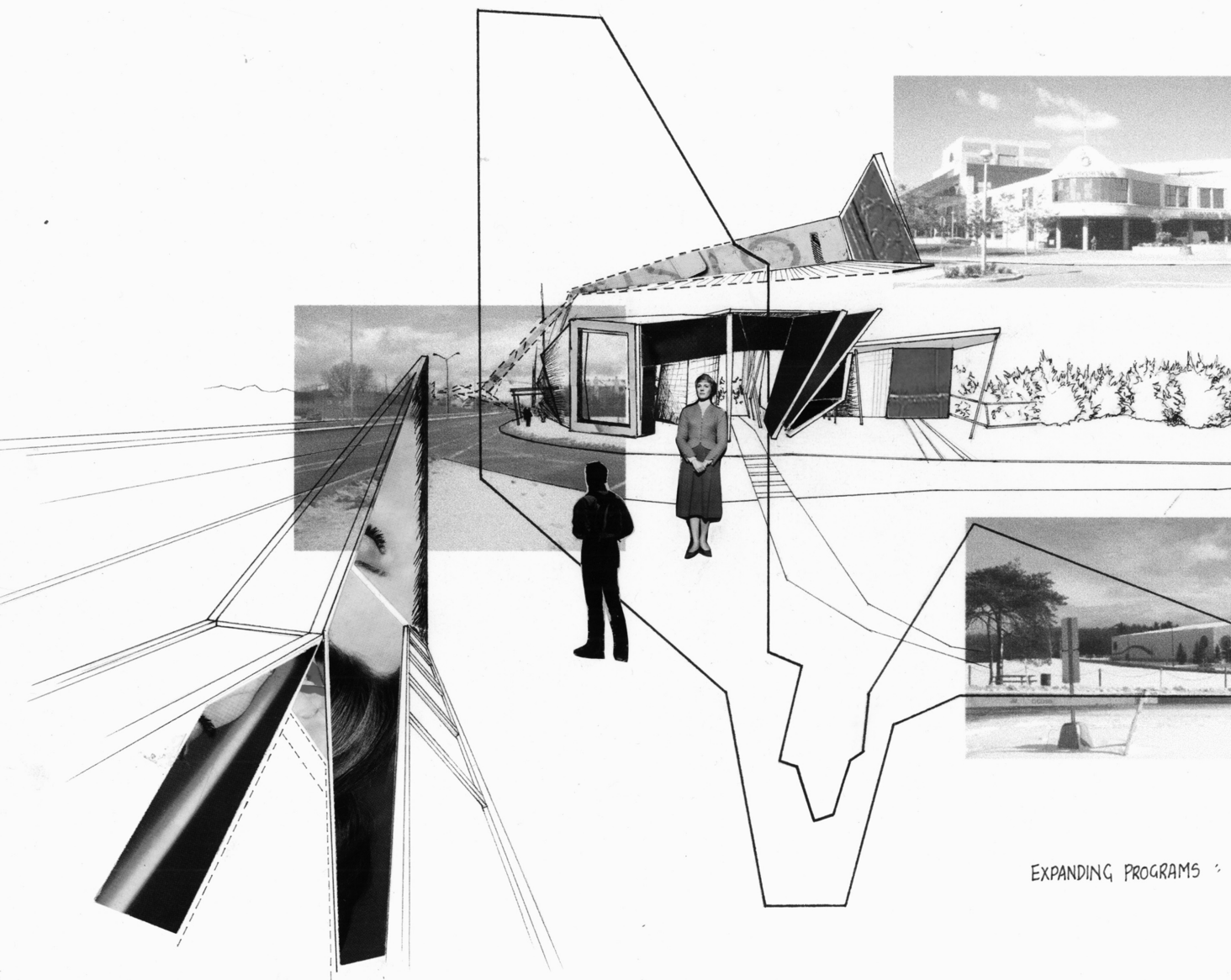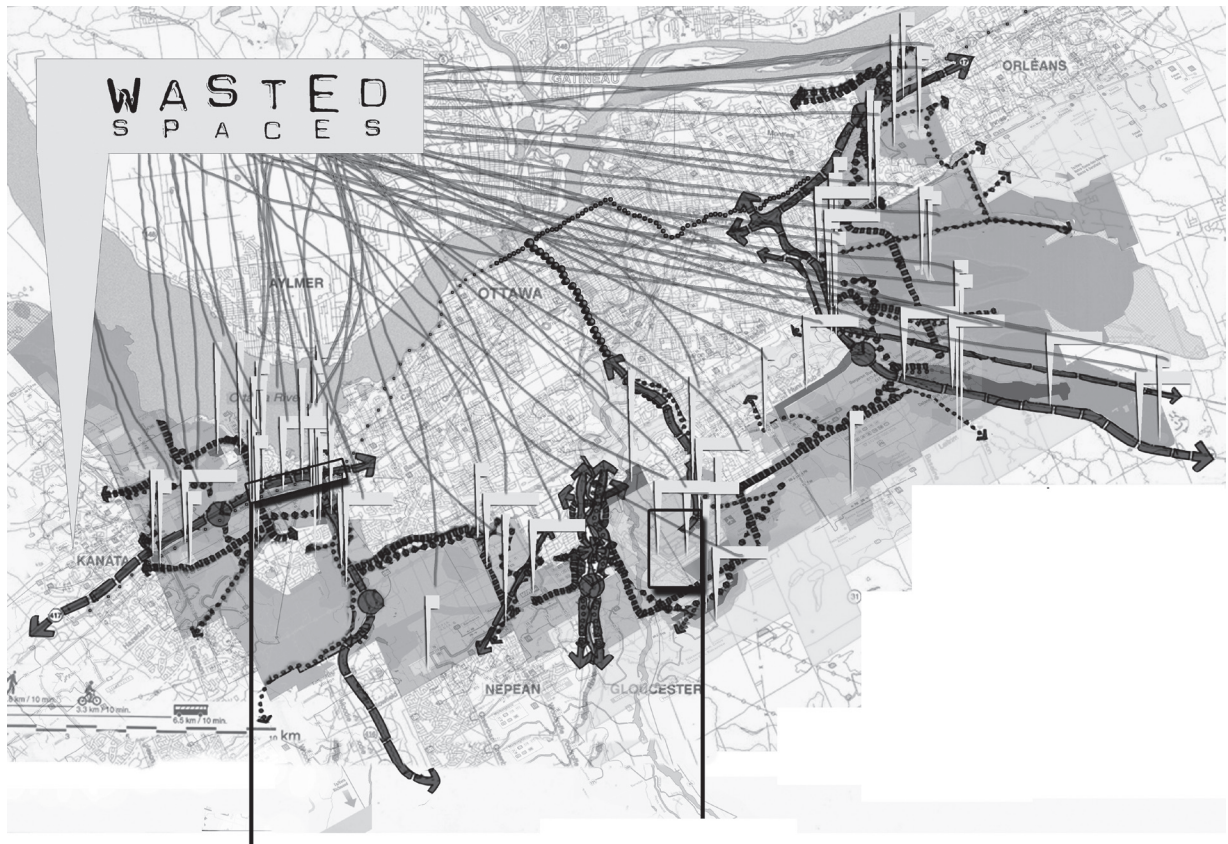
EXPANDING PROGRAMS

RE :: STRUCTURE
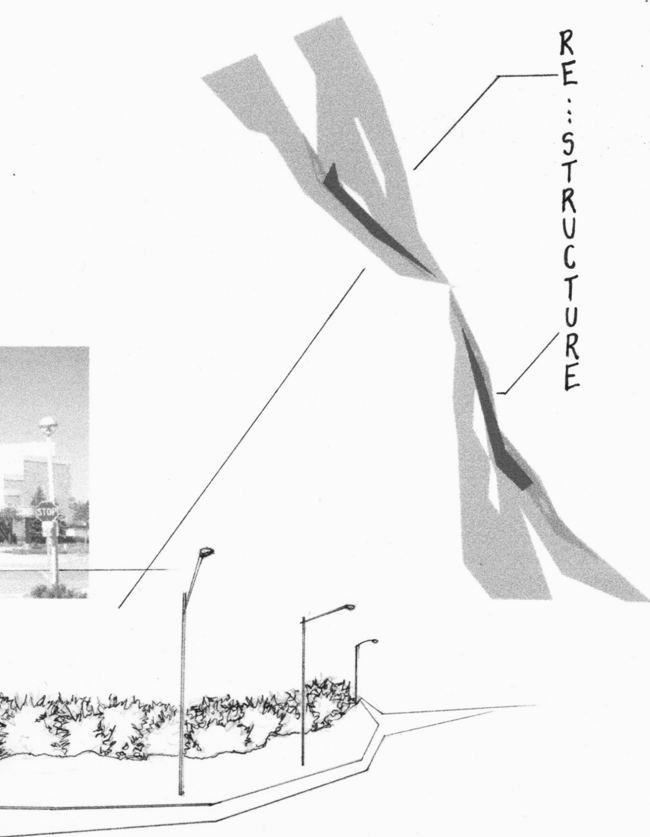
ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE DENSITY
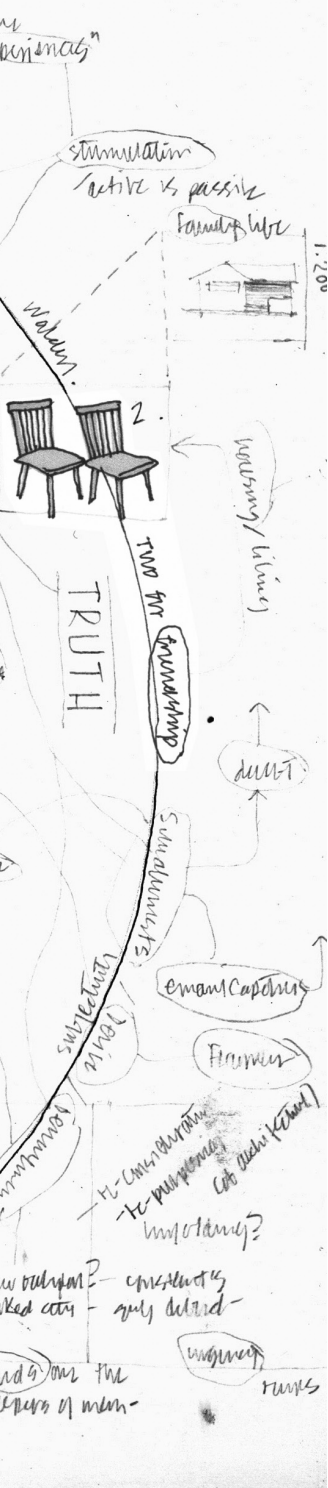
: LINKING EXISTING RESOURCES

WASTED
S P A C E S
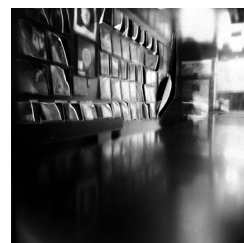
Is it still possible to think of the Greenbelt as a single zone, a closed entity or environmental richness, a natural beauty waiting to take overspill and at the same time remain an open space, a buffer accessible to all? Is it a system preserved on a map – or sequence of maps - held together by the gentle illusion of nature and what is known as the 'good life'?

Is it such imaginary zones which give nostalgia validity, or is nostalgia validated by such zones in a kind of elliptical planning? Is this a useful environmental tactic beyond its sell-by date, or is the greenbelt an area of a city ready for serious expansion; a master plan to prevent further sprawl or an alibi to prevent serious growth elsewhere?

Of course upon closer inspection no map is as seamless as it appears; the scale is always deceptive, as fractalism demonstrated as it exploded the chaos of land form and coastal edges. Cartographies are notoriously seductive, yet beguilingly untrustworthy. Maps work by their discontinuities; the ruptures often prove the contrary to the whole. The same is true with the Greenbelt; it is a colour on the map, a zone of varying greens whilst some developments continue to creep into it. Does it still hold within it a diagram of some courage? Or is it a diagram which may only work by using the social engineering that it purports to be fighting against.

Greber's vision aimed to build a greater people; the beginning of a branding exercise – the city as icon – a vibrant green inner city – waterfront for all with holistic satellite communities – de-centralisation. Does Ottawa still want to de-cant the density to prevent sprawl or can it prevent sprawl in another way? Can we put real life experience against abstract/conceptual experience and thinking? What role do those play, like students, who have no baggage, but with more naivety may be able to question and provoke more unusual options?
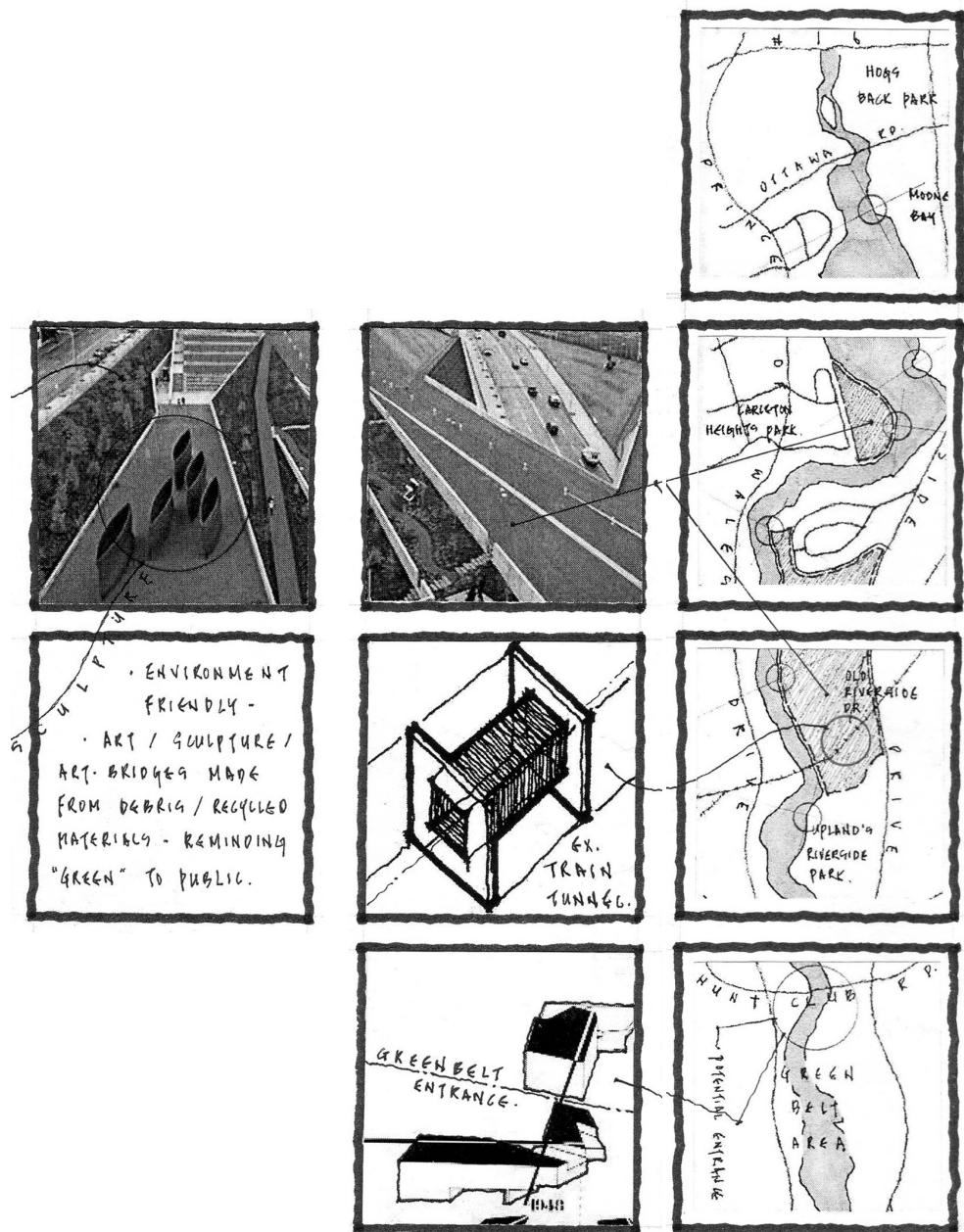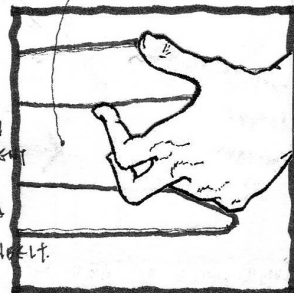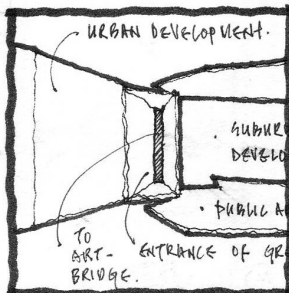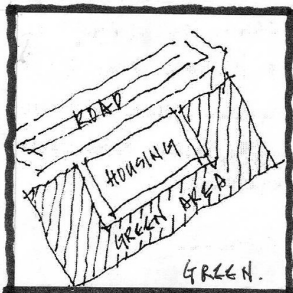
personal.

1:1

best companionship

"or, like in the woods"

corners of life

Cedric PRICE and delight

Deleuze?
Heidegger?
Bergson.

magnets

contemplation
viewing
observation

re-invention of ...

challenge

city-planning

simple things

One for yourself

"(or more), like in the city)"

being deliberately

blind observant

reward?
determination
city-planning

consumerism

city as background

castles in the air

security

experimentation

population / program

energy art.

serenity

Deborah New York

Wooden

ruins

greenbelt

DNA sketch

LA BOTTEGA
BOTTEGA

onward market

change

non-utopia

diversification

security

FATE

grid

SPECTACLE

uncertainty

re-purpose

control

"renewing"

bank st.

scripted

Wooden

against convention

uncertainty

FUTURE
(layers?)
us

urgency

consequence

experimental development

psycho-geography

1:10,000

3.

creative

three for society)

way of life

engineering sculpture

change

GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
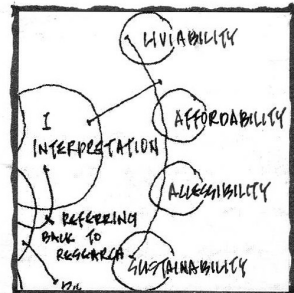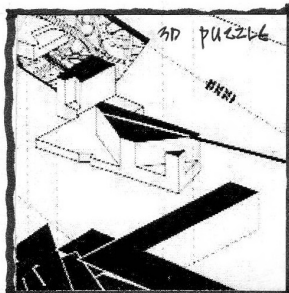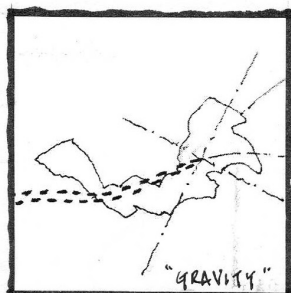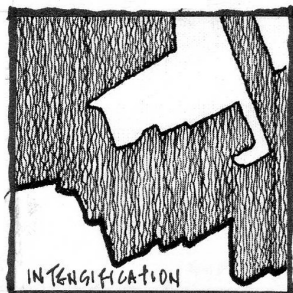*REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING*

Cities are in effect endless commodities, infinite parts of our world which we love to hate and hate to love. Yet many of us cannot live without the city; the city is crime, cruelty, kindness and thrill. Two weeks ago in New York it was kick-ass art and sirens in East Village; a week ago an airport lounge in Amsterdam with parrot tulips sold by the credit card; a couple of days ago, it was Montreal and the university booksh...yesterday was arrval into Ottawa, a yellow shuttle bus, one of only three shuttle buses in the whole city. What does that tell us of this city, Ottawa?
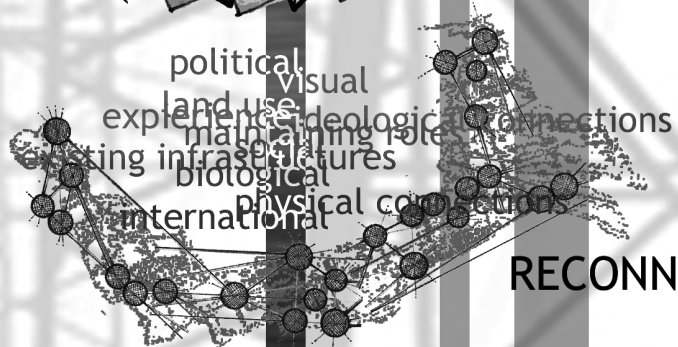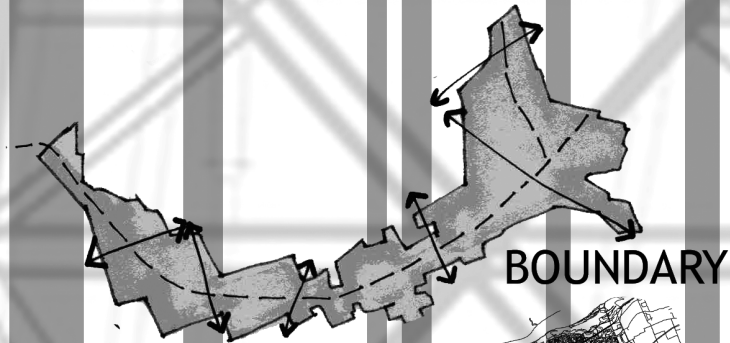
Ottawa - sleepwalking into a quiet oblivion, an exit city, a transit city for those who want to go to Toronto or Montreal, or a city awakening to an urgent dream?
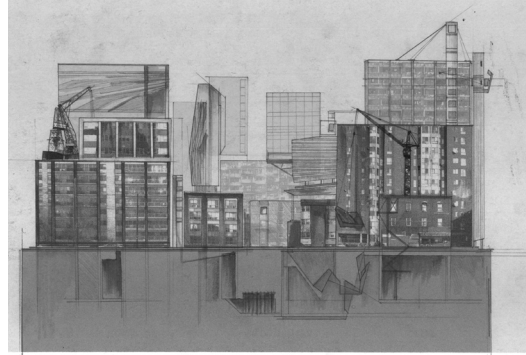
How absurd it seems to talk of philosophies or even the practice of revolution today, yet it has an urgency which few of us could deny. If the French writer and activist Albert Camus considered us to be the only species who refuses to be what we are, we have to ask whether we can, even with some temerity, yet still confident, assert our refusal again.

Today hopes blur with conspiracy as terrorism and dissent have been trivialized and made so fearful as to lead to fallback fundamentalisms of all kinds. So much so that even to say 'no' today has become unsubtle, uncouth, and clearly at times 'plain stupid'. Yet to say 'no' is our right, essential at certain times. But - with so much around today to say 'no' to - do we really know what we are saying no to?

GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING

INTENSIFICATION

"GRAVITY"

3D PUZZLE

LIVIABILITY
I INTERPRETATION
AFFORDABILITY
ACCESSIBILITY
X REFERRING BACK TO RESEARCH
SUSTAINABILITY

PENETRATION

COMBINED

ART BRIDGE

RIVER

HOUSING

FOLDING · IN

SITE
· RIVER
· GREEN
· OTTAWA

PUBLIC SPACE

ROAD
HOUSING
GREEN AREA

GREEN.

GREEN CONDOMINIUM.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT.
SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC AREA
TO ART-BRIDGE.
ENTRANCE OF GREENBELT.

25

BOUNDARY

MERGING WITH THE WH

NEW EVENTS

political
visual
land use
experience ideologic connections
maintaining role
existing infrastructures
biological
international physical connections

RECONNECTION

|	DYMAXION HOUSE 1929	LINEAL CITY 1882	ROYAL SALT-WORKS 1774	TC-CAR AS OPPORTUNITY	TC-SELF FINANCING	MUNSTER BRIDON 1811	CENTRAL PARK 1858	TC-THE UMBRELLA CONCEPT-	SOTG PRESERVATION	VILLE CONTEMPORAINE	LETCHWORTH 1921	VILLE RADIEUSE 1922	TC-SINGLE FAMILY HOMES	COLLECTIVE FARMS 1925	SOTG AUTOMOBILE 1922	TVA PORTABLES 1937	COMMUNITY BLOCKS 1922	BROAD ACRES 1930	SOTG SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS	TC-MORE FOR LESS	GARDEN CITY 1898	VILLE SPACIALE 1958	SOTG HUB A TREE	CONTINUOUS MONUMENT	THINK BELT 1964	TC-REALITY TRUMPS FANTASY	THE STRIP 1972	PLUG-IN CITY 1964	WALKING CITY 1962	SOTG RESTRICTIONS	METACITY/DATATOWN 1963	AIR CITY 1964	ONE-NORTH 2001	PIG CITY 2001	TC-DOUBLED POPULATION	BIG BOX STORES 1970	SOTG REFORESTATION	TC-PLAYING THE GAME
ARCHITECT	+3	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	-3	0	+1	-1	+2	0	-1	0	+1	-1	+3	+1	-1	-1	+2	+3	+1	+3	+3	-2	+3	+3	+2	0	+2	+2	-1	0	-3	0	-3
CITY PLANNER	-1	+1	+3	0	+1	+1	0	-2	+1	-2	+2	+2	0	-2	0	-2	+2	+2	-1	-2	+3	+2	-1	-2	-2	-1	0	+3	-1	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	+2	+3	+2	-2	+3
DEVELOPER	0	+1	-1	0	-3	+1	+1	+2	0	+3	0	-1	+1	+1	-1	+3	-3	-1	+1	+3	-1	0	+2	+3	+3	+1	0	0	+2	+2	0	+3	+3	0	0	-1	-1	+3	-1
ENVIRONMENTALIST	-1	+1	+3	+3	+1	+1	+2	+3	+3	0	-2	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+3	0	+3	-2	+1	0	-1	-1	-2	+2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-3	-1	0	0	0	+3

OLE

27

What is doing the right thing in the City of Ottawa under these circumstances – to develop or not to develop? How does this pit a brave Utopian master-plan for Ottawa expanding to 2 million people in a strong-of-pearls metaphor against a partial, incremental, messy and systematically changing growth?

Isn't a city a transformable body which, taking its form and shape over time, is often but necessarily unpredictable? Is the city not nomadic, however rooted its inhabitants might wish it to be sometimes? In this sense then, the city of Ottawa is influenced by diversity, multiplicity and the unknown just as much as other cities. How do these concern the planner, the developer, the pedagogue, the contractor, the computer engineer, the historian?
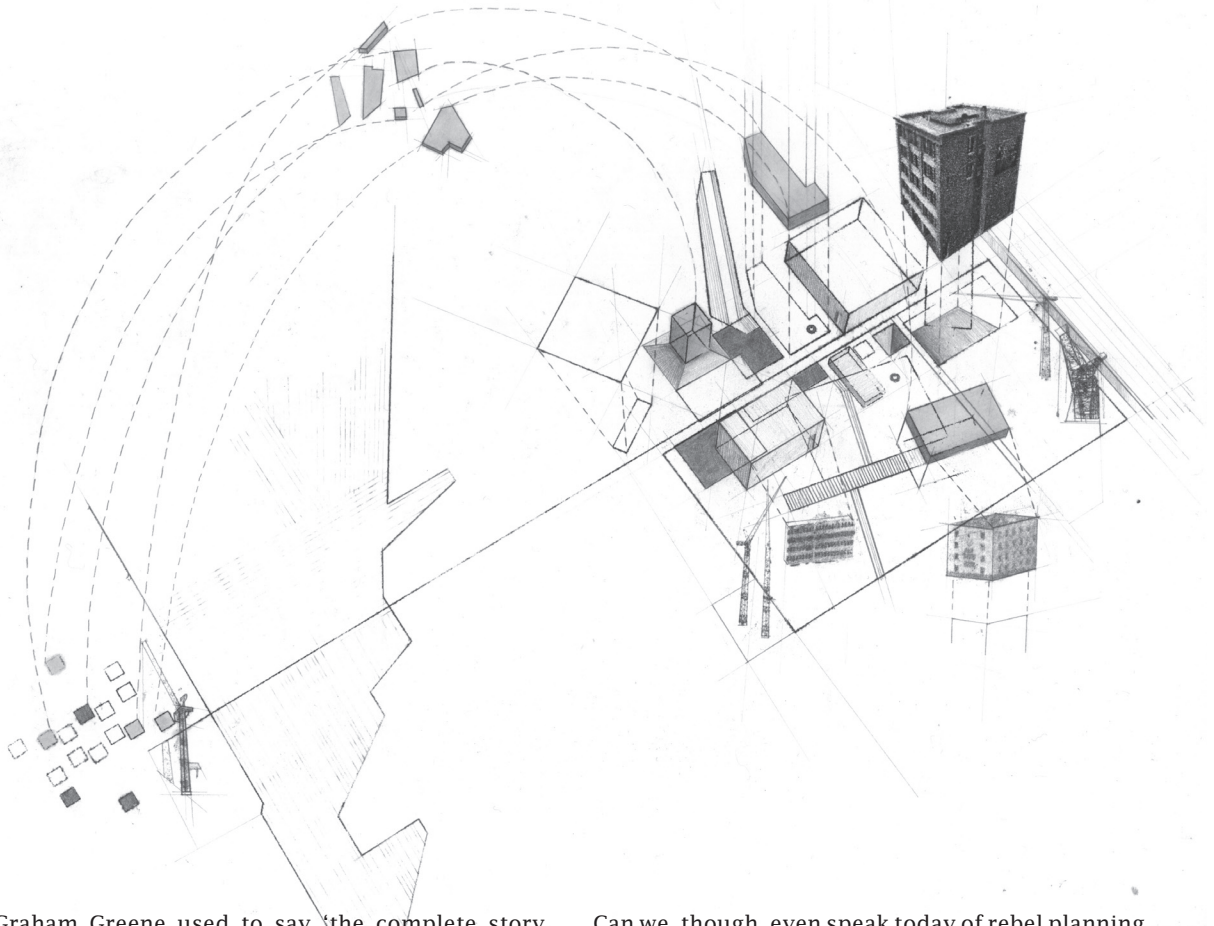
Graham Greene used to say 'the complete story always escapes?' Is not that incompletion, the escapable delight, part of the city too; those areas where the story escapes – in the invisible cities, in the infinite cities, in the indifferent cities and in the open cities? Any development, educationally liberal or professionally controlled, is only ever a partial story, a controlled picture of the impossible expansion of Ottawa.

Can we, though, even speak today of rebel planning or even talk of the new rebel and the rebellious in today's climate where everything slightly wayward can be cynically attacked, cynically re-packaged to become so-locked down and regulated. So fearful and indifferent does this make us that our anxieties and populism become welcome liberal alibis for change never taken.

Can we fall short of hasty solutions or even misguided attempts to assert one's right as an architect or planner to plan? The figures, urban geography, systems thinking, we-think software, open source and other inter-disciplinary forces all prove necessary to participate in city planning and future decision-making. If this leads to a realisation the public has lost confidence with planners and architects, it might also mean planners have lost confidence with architects, and architects have lost ways to speak to planners. If there is a continuing and professionally-willed public misunderstanding of architecture and urbanism, then it is time we ask why.

What does it mean to be contemporary today and engage in the present without escaping backwards? What does it mean to have the 'courage to be'? "Courage is an ethical reality," Paul Tillich wrote, "but it is rooted in the whole breadth of human existence and ultimately in the structure of being itself. It must be considered ontologically in order to be understood ethically." If an urban developer possesses a certain type of courage, an architect another type of courage and a systems engineer a third – what makes up our network of validity and what allows us to proceed individually and together?

T-shirts are optional. In searching for a method, we work as individual researchers like detectives. We become part of a task force. The surgery sets up a contested and contesting series of enquiries that explore the transition from a political brief (planning directives, funding strategies and prejudices) to the drivers necessary to re-assess contemporary urbanism. Researching, scripting the brief and re-framing that brief invite rebel planning ideas as yet unrevealed (in cities, universities and the profession). Architectures unpredictable even to those who imagine them might be one aim.

1.

2025
2010
2035
2040
2030   2020
2015   2045

· HOUGING PROJECT.
+ GUGTAINABLE
  DEGIGN.
  - LIVIABILITY
  - AFFORDABLE
  - ACCEGGIBILITY
  - GUGTAINABILITY

Process innovation and organizational effectiveness, known so well in business studies, brainstorming or 'awesome' foresight-workshops, prove essential but unexploited. Advanced engineering, bio-technology, bio-ethics, landscape and sustainability studies require lateral thinking. Information is turned into knowledge only when we know which direction to turn for that knowledge.

On the T-shirts the slogans to hold us back or take us forwards. We distort our work by confirming what we already know and lose the chance of the unpredictable. What is worth knowing is always mirrored then by how this knowledge is used and abused. And, despite all the clichés or perhaps because of them, knowledge becomes power if we understand what directions it can or cannot take. Ethics is the uncomfortable need to insinuate ourselves into this unpredictable architecture.

KEEP RIVERSIDE GREEN. (CENTRAL PARK

2010
2025
2050
2055
2040
2016
2030
2035
2020
2045

The self is in direct contest with others at the same time as it works alongside others. Organizational systems and cooperative strategies may prove as important as solo ventures. The venture architects meet the hedged thinkers and architectural extravaganzas are not quite what we think they are from the current encyclopedia of taste and distaste.

Weak systems may ultimately be stronger for our creative fragility. Research, shared skill, open source and group practice and feedback all contribute to the growing awareness of the conditions and mechanics of contemporary architecture and planning. Yet at the same time critical practices have to navigate the formative even a-priori solutions preferred by investors, contractors and funding bodies.

preliminary model 1 · preliminary model 2 · exploded view · plan · elevation · steel latticework · interior atrium

GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING

point of departure on process:

as i organized information on context and form and function the authorship of chaotic » emerged frequent patterns borrowed from the banal city
a pattern emerged in the layer between my ideas| pigmented structures and textures already in existance
coupled with a free image of ottawa's flight map this information became a plan

my intervention will allow nature to re-claim
i will plant an entire forest
with only one kind of tree species
called the photovoltaic tree
it will co-exist with the woodland things
on all their levels

this tree species bears one fruit: light
the silicon cell | much like the organic one
is the vehicle from generator | to charge controller | to battery
| to inverter
my tree species will inaugurate enough energy
to station a complex of sorts   »»»»»
this artificial forest has not been planted yet »
be assured it will
not replace the authentic one
it will solicit a growth they glow at night » untroubled orbs that light the way
to merge our ruptured greenbelt
so you may find a tree in the middle of a highway

GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING

just tickets and parking here. a
» and more
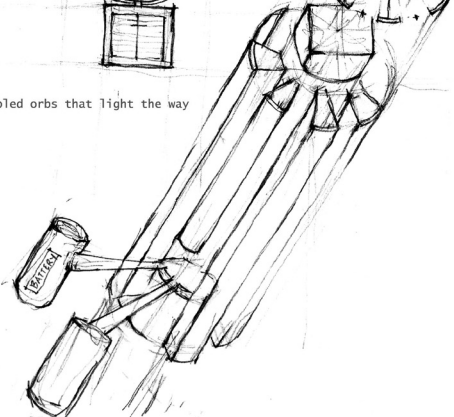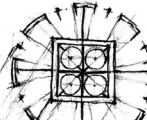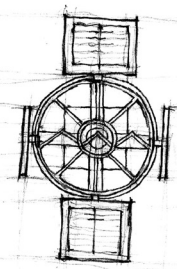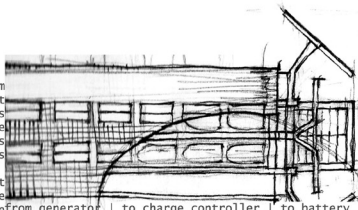
you may have a picnic on a parking level
wine and chocolate » even in the heart of winter
the photovoltaic trees
heat each floor! and the heat leaks out through the open spaces
as absurd as indulging in those bodily pleasures

ENTER HERE
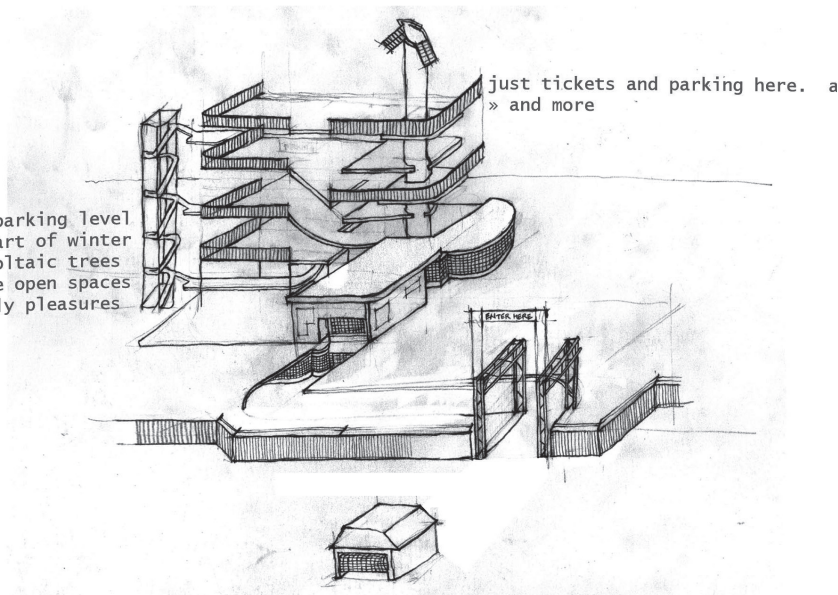
We all need a much greater geographic awareness of our own countries, perhaps an even deeper understanding of others. Not the sterile geographies of yesterday – the can-you-name-the-state-capitals, and list-the-coal-fields-of-Yorkshire varieties – but new and relevant regional geographies providing people with concept-illuminating information that helps them see their Us-Them biases, their parochialism, and the way they are linked to larger natural and world communities.

Rodney Gould & Peter White, **Mental Maps,** 1974

SITE A
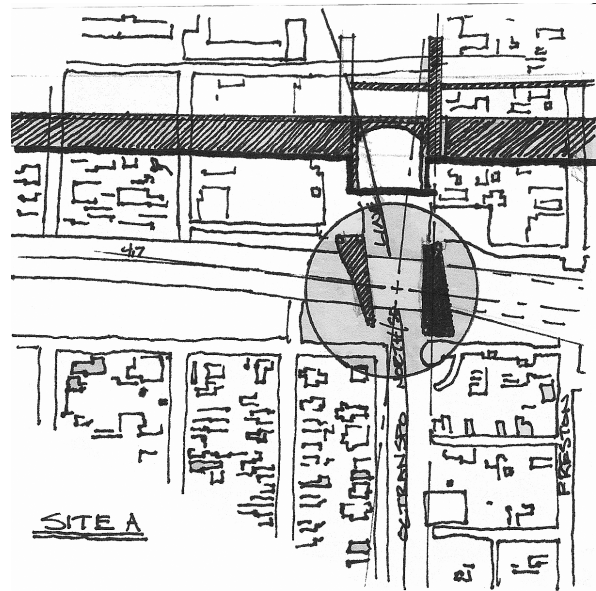
Slicing through the GreenBelt to create connectors & attractions to bring attention to the existing Ottawa GreenBelt

NEEDLE THROUGH	FOLD OUT FOLD IN
RE-MAP THE CITY GRID	OPEN FLOW
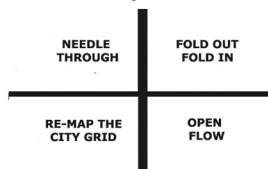
Re-shape the rigidity of the city grid, to help the GreenBelt become another city centre. And to create dynamic passages within the potential development corridors of the city of Ottawa

Dynamic passages through the GreenBelt will connect busy city areas with Green areas of the Belt. Linking the natural with the built.

CONNECT

SLICE

LINK   PENETRATE

VOLUMETRIC PLAN STUDY

PUBLIC PASS-THROUGH AREA
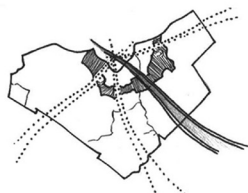
CITY OF OTTAWA

MACRO NEEDLES
GREEN BELT FOLD OUT/IN

GREEN BELT
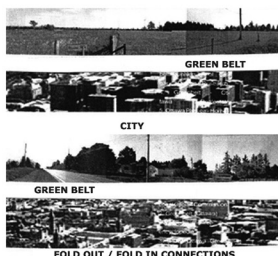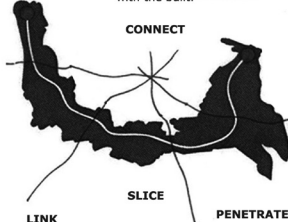
CITY

GREEN BELT

FOLD OUT / FOLD IN CONNECTIONS

Concept and Approach: Re-shape existing city grid to include the GreenBelt in the dynamic city centre movement. Thus, expand the GreenBelt & City Centre in the same time

ATTRACTION VOLUMES

CITY ROADS

SOCIAL IMPACT

INTERACTION BETWEEN: VOLUMES & NATURE   VOLUMES & CITY   NATURE & CITY

OVERLAPPING CONNECTING VOLUMES

Volume

Section
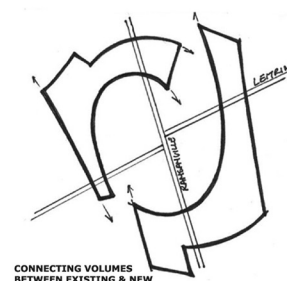
CONNECTING VOLUMES
BETWEEN EXISTING & NEW

Shooting needle ends to suggest direction, connection and continuity

Nature acts as a shell to the emerging built form

Travelling, overlapping, connecting volumatic needles

Stiching Nature & the built form

GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
*REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING*

The question raised by any rebel planning application, idea and impossible proposal is how to legitimate that application idea or proposal, whether it comes from left-field or right-field, is radical or conventional, appears ridiculous, or whether it possesses serious issue and offers serious solutions. This does not matter whether it comes from individuals, an ad-hoc assembly or a public or private body. It is a question of how it is taken seriously and given credence; and what channels are scripted for this seriousness.
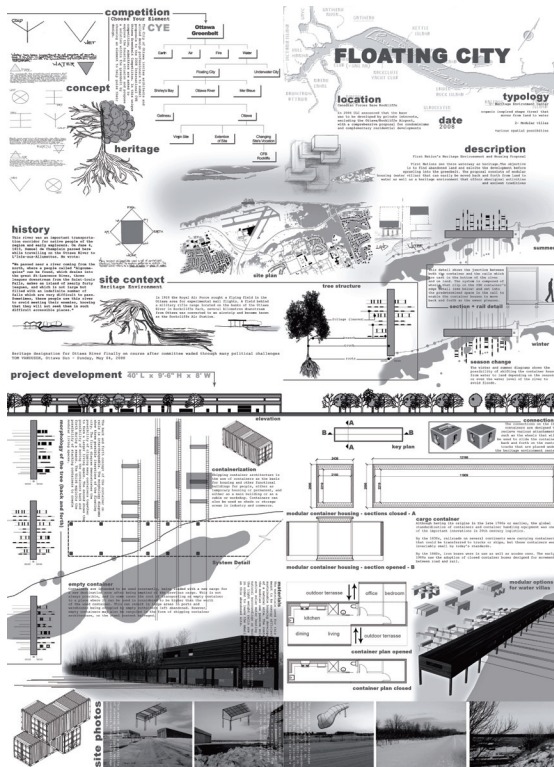
Any proposal or idea needs validating by circulation and/or dissemination. Ideas by their very nature can be taken seriously or trivialised – prejudice and anti-prejudice must be understood as much as negation. The same tactics used to trivialise or side-step any issue can also be used to re-state its importance. This is a methodology used in politics, advertising and management. There is no reason why architects should not understand and be able to deploy such practice.

Accessibility and openness for the idea can be increased by talk, rumour, gossip (all political and professional processes); it is a question how well these are used or abused. Some serious attention should be given to pivotal points and moments which reveal more general issues in relation to the idea. In other words how to spread these intelligently and indicate how such ideas may outline the very issues of vision and leadership which are now required
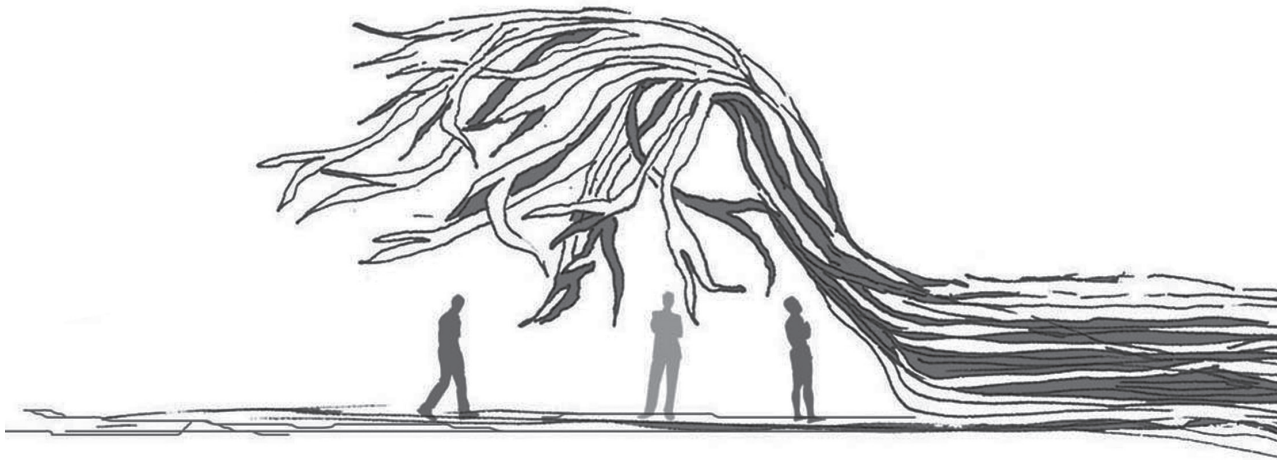
Nothing is impossible in a situation where change is urgent but the shape of that change is ill-defined. Everyone seeks a resolution to the unsolved. Resolution, however, might not be the only solution. A provisional, partial solution – a kind of viral planning - could also be part of the solutions possible.

needles

Needle developments run through the Green Belt's
vital city corridors to connect opposite parts of Ottawa

slice

To slice through the green is reinforce
the connection between central Ottawa and
the sprawl beyone the belt

stitch

Stiching the dense areas of the city by
creating dynamic pass though corridors

fold

Maximizing the valuable green area of Ottawa by
extending its limits in & out of the existing known border

penetrate

Developments penetrate
through the city grid
to extend the
dynamics to dead areas

Facilitation: an element necessary for Ottawa and other existing municipalities to reach an agreement on their degree of individuality.

Ghost: where each community is an immaterial substance with no sense of place. Nobody can see it.

Zeitgeist: spirit of the times

Legislation: an arbitrary decision to link neighbouring communities into a 'greater' Ottawa.

condition where the other communities cannot feel the connection to the greater Ottawa.

Momentum: a necessity for Ottawa to accomplish any change, one that falls on everyone's responsibility. The push.

Extract: a quality inherent in every place that may need to be drawn out through rigorous process

Joint: a finely crafted connection between the greenbelt, the sities and the city.

Omen: a signal, interpreted positively or negatively of what is to come.

Population: a disease involving the body count in a city. A high number does not signify healthy growth.

Vision: a skill whose depth informs the clarity of a city's future. How far do we see? ... seen lost ... Ottawa. No

Catalyst: a starting set of ingredients that puts change in motion. Something to look towards.

Navigation: an essential skill that has ... in the city of Ottawa. no matter where you stand, you cannot be sure of the location. Nothing stands out.

Sity: a physical manifestation of an urban concept of living, that has a central hub of urban lifestyles.

Witness: people in Ottawa are blind to the real conditions in the planning of the ... open ... the slightest idea

the city, when will they their eyes to finally see?

Direction: despite a 20/20 plan, does anyone really know where the city is headed? even just

Tension: a much needed force to keep a steady stream of people engaged in every piece of the city intensity. how much can be pushed into a single defined area? much

While developing the 'sity', an alphabet was used as a way of listing and presenting issues that the city needed to solve, as well as concepts that guided the exploration. Unfortunately, not all the letters were used.
The remaining

B · K · H · Q · U · X · Y

has been external to what the 'sity' addresses.
Perhaps it is possible for it to attend to what comes next.

As the 'sity' grows, how might it start to inform the margins of its extent?

How do each keep true to its individual identity when the edges of 'sities' meet?

Perhaps it creates an urban 'no man's land,' a bizarre alternate method of planning that counters, yet strengthens the concept of the 'sity'

There must be a way of creating a boundary/connection between urban intensities.

To push the exploration further, what is the alternate alphabet of issues that arise from the "BKHQUXY"?

SITY   SITY
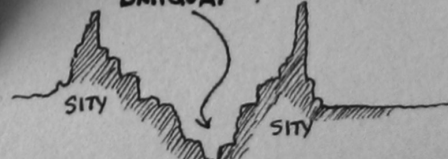
Prejudices are like a wish-list of experience; they need not form the basis for change but they need to be negotiated to pass beyond hopeful programmatic and diagrammatic statements. The question is how to weave together issues from any investigative matrix that may appear incongruous and ill-fitting. What rebel thinking existing in the vision, content and thinking is necessary and how can it succeed?

Going beyond the diagram means exactly that - beyond the platitudes, prejudices and diagrams into the agendas necessary for change to happen: professionally, personally, politically and socially.

Whatever the architect designs or however the architect participates they are not detached from these processes. Any half-thought, undeveloped idea, even if iconic and momentary (spectacular) can appear to be an advantage to a divided and uncertain community, committee or public body. That is why the detail of change implicated by any proposal can be measured by a revitalised exchange which includes the random and gossip.

Any suggestion of spark, charisma or intelligence has to be backed up with serious issue otherwise it is easily dismissed for being either too different or too unknown. Thus the question how to push the envelope (to use a phrase) of any idea or outrageous proposal depends on intelligent

planning, a holistic understanding (topical phrase: joining up the dots) and a non-adversarial, un-hostile presentation of the wider issues.
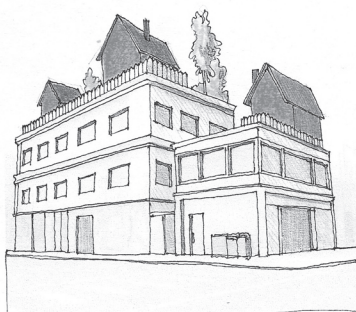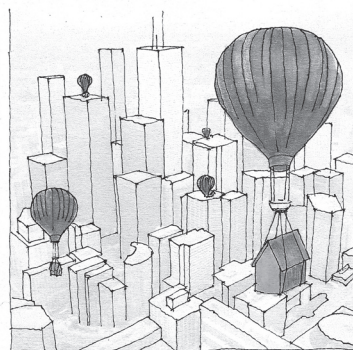
One must be ready for the retort, for the negative brush-off, but this is unlike anything we may have had before. Change itself might need to bring in something institutions, education and finance initiatives have not experienced previously. To achieve this, we must not only do our homework but re-define our homework.

Sometimes there is no precedent for change itself except that which comes through or by default. This must also be understood as vital to any change and vital to avoid the trap of thinking the past re-vitalises the present. An idea can and does turn into a proposal and work only if it also collaborates and overcomes its weakest and/or strongest link; in other words it must oscillate from clarity to vagueness and back again.

a fragment.
art work
and renewable
/ recycled
material.

a group of
fragments.
collage of
art works
and debris.

groups of
fragments.
come together
as a cladding.
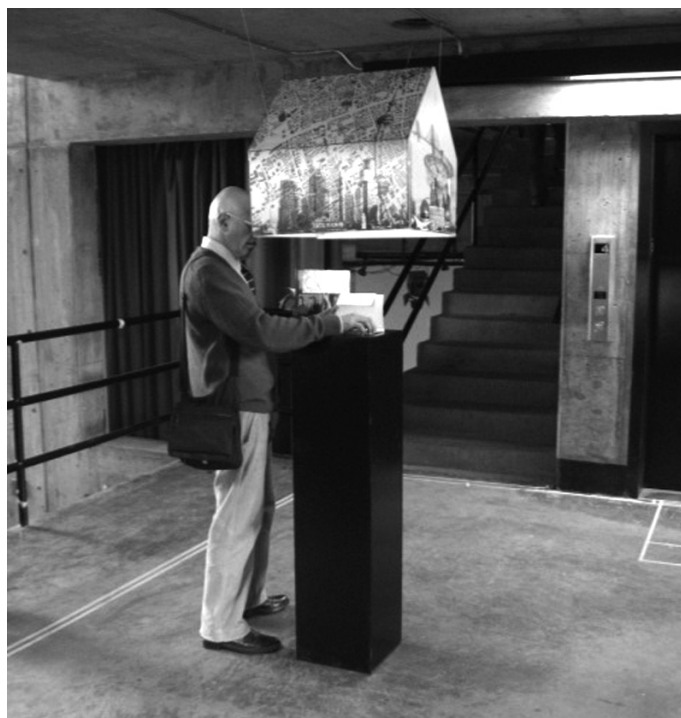
GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
*REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING*
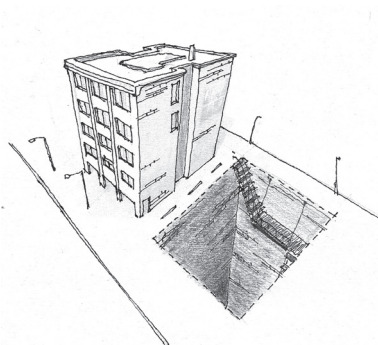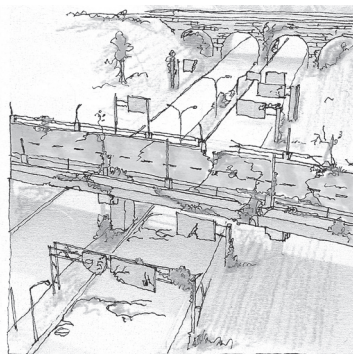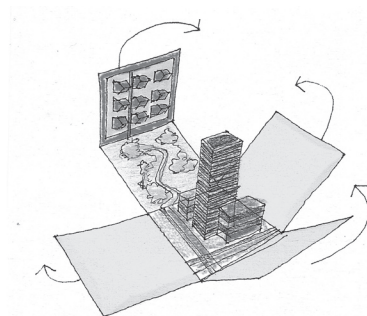
GIRAFFE AT THE BAR
REBEL PLANNING FRAGMENTS FOR A CITY IN WAITING

The subtext of taking an idea 'beyond the diagram' means that any fractious structure can be pulled together by serious training, method, and concerted action. Hard work is taken for granted, cynicism is no option. Protectionism has to be defeated; there are no magic formulas but it might be a case not of who dares wins, but who cares wins. How to care is as simple as it is challenging.

It is essential to anticipate the prejudices and mental maps that choose favourites and opt for safety and thus deny risk. Learn how to protect – where valid - current structures whilst introducing change, stealthily, with as little disturbance as possible from the way things have always been done. Stealth is key to taking knowledge further and going beyond the diagram into rebel planning.

To re-define the parameters for change needs an understanding of the structures and organisation that will be responsible for those changes. In rebel planning, know your case well, do your homework, pre-empt hostility and negative positions, know how to re-articulate these in an intelligent non-adversarial manner. Avoid confrontation until change is all but inevitable. Even then, avoid it! Learn the art of thinking someone else can be responsible for what you have set in process.
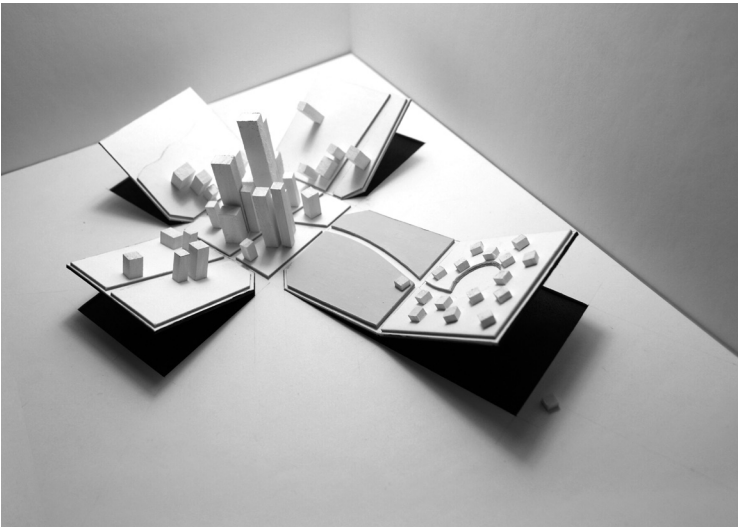
Then the unsayable and unthinkable becomes sayable and thinkable. Witold Gombrowicz the Polish writer is then right: once thought an idea can be unstoppable. Rebel planning - it depends what you make of it, not what is held back to protect.

OTTAWA greenbelt.
created a condition of defragm
this breaking of the belt is c
mate it all together.   areas
landscapes.
        density can be
            creating   high
highways are
wasted space
densify wast
eland. within
    continuity
walking dis
tance of ame
nities.

RE
CYCLE

can we remap the current infrastructure/densit
dens (p/access ibility/affordability?

the current development and infrastructure corridors that bisect the greenbelt have
...entation and discontinuity in both the physical and psychological aspects of the belt.
...eating a condition whereby further ... development could elimi
... of potential development effect ... rural and untouched
... density, accessibility and affordab' ... lity are the key goals fo
... development in Ottawa and the greenb ... elt.
... achieved in urban voids, by recycling ... 'wasted' ... r future
... density towers or folding out into ... city from ... space, or
... housing can fold out ... the edges
... rather than ... of the green
... fragmentation ... belt and into
... the city.

what if this was a 5 minutes city?

DO NOT ENTER

got green?   HELL

2

FOLD OUT   UNTOUCHED.   TO REST...

EXISTING NETWORKS

Communication, Transportation, Information, Social, Electrical, Visual, Sewer, Experience, Personal, Political, Ideological, Historical

Overlapping Relationships
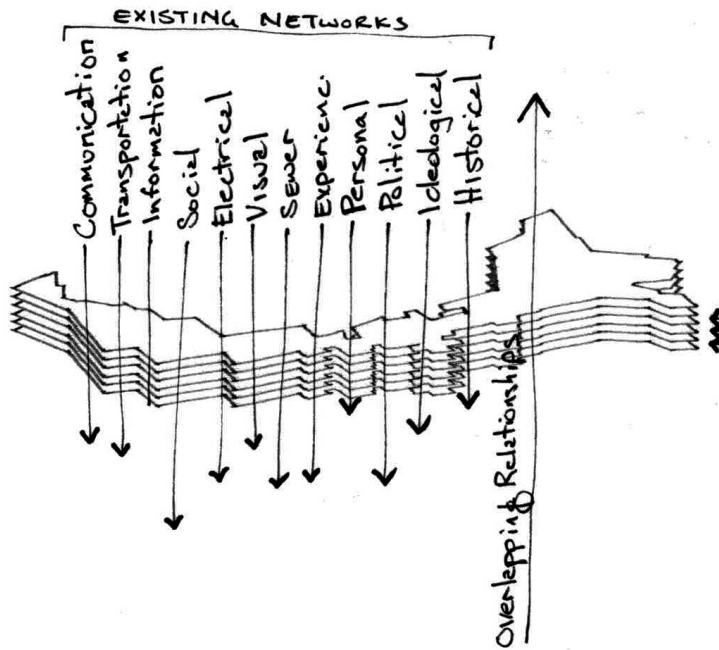
What does it mean to plan freely, to dare to dream, to provide options as 'food for thought' – for developers, planners, politicians and graduate students?

Do planners today need such permission to dare to dream or are circumstances against the 'dream'?

Is there a public misunderstanding of both planning and architecture today? If so have we done enough to communicate these issues?

How much do land development and market forces shape not only the conditions that define what directions are possible, but also influence the opportunity and criteria for debate? In other words, despite all benign plans for a positive development, what are the cynical conditions we must face?
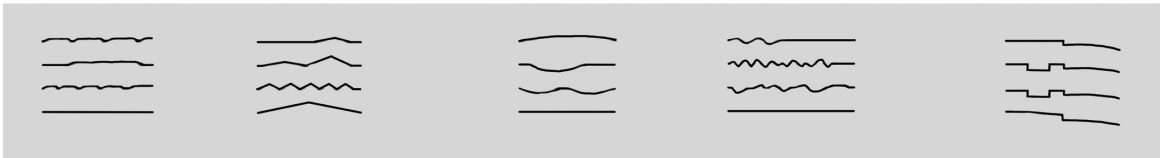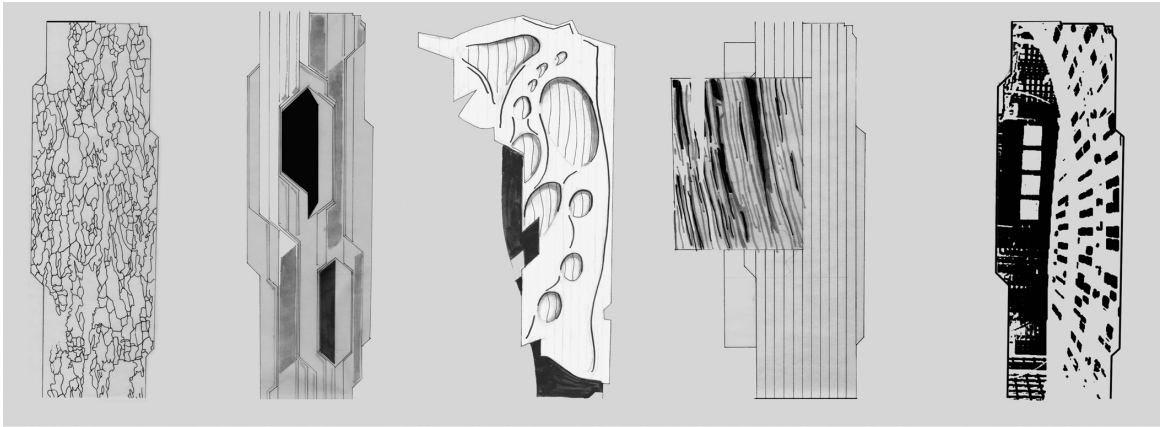
Where are the edges, the residual areas, the areas of blur that penetrate and upset the system, any system? If a developer exploits these, is the word 'exploit' disingenuous?

Is the big business-hedge fund world an indulgence, a parallel activity until it becomes part of an international competition for the downtown development of the new marina drive deep-density waterfront plan for (say) Shirleys Bay?

What sources – historical and current – would you recommend students to explore in investigating possible planning models and offering them some historical perspective?

Can students, or the public, come up with an interpretation, with their own cultural understanding of the issues that a/ are different from the planners b/ can be integrated into the planning structures c/ are more than usefully naive?
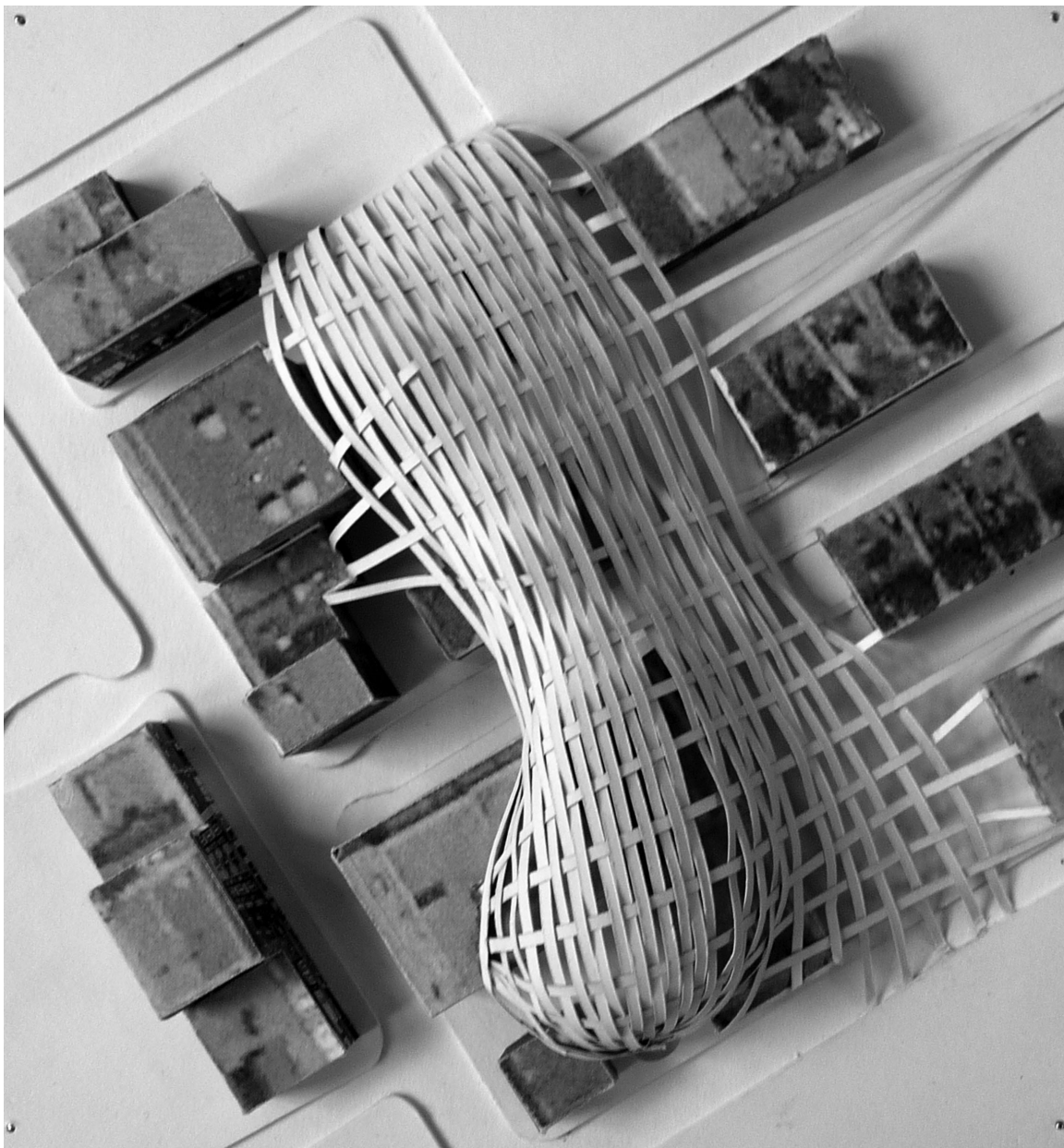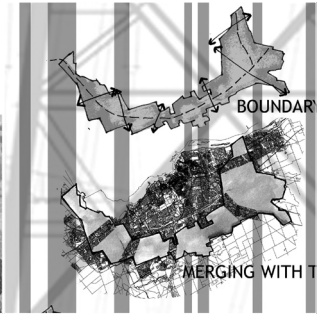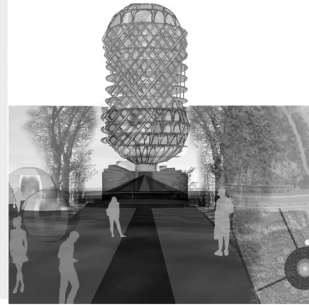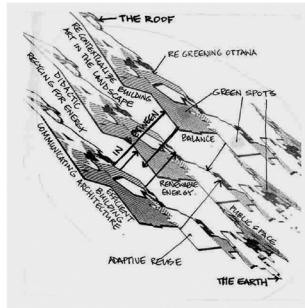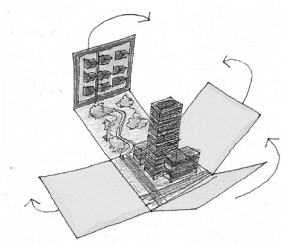
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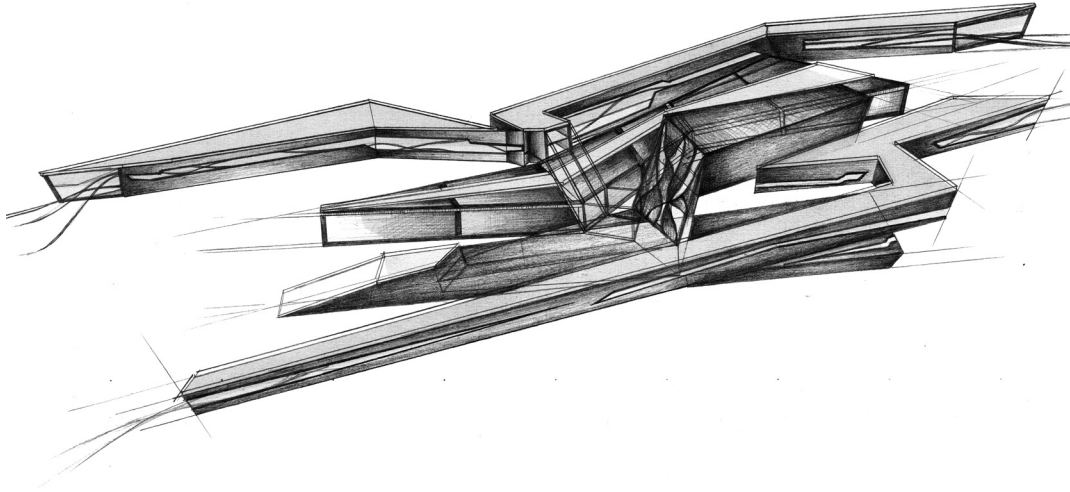
Have students been educated to believe they can make a difference that they cannot achieve in reality? Does this lead to disenchantment, indifference or anger?

Or is there some lingering belief that times will turn and the privilege of architecture once more emerges as an essential exercise in parallel to market developments and disenchantment and the influence of big money and developers?

Are these naïve questions? What are naïve questions under these conditions of real life experience, especially if the public are invited into this investigative process?
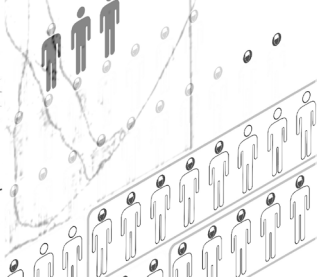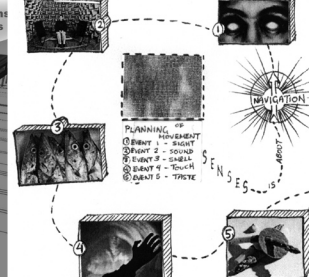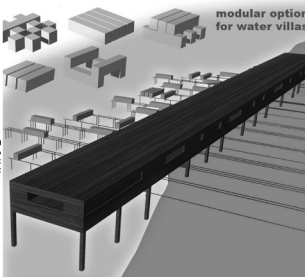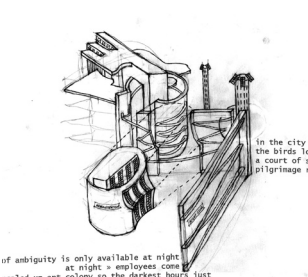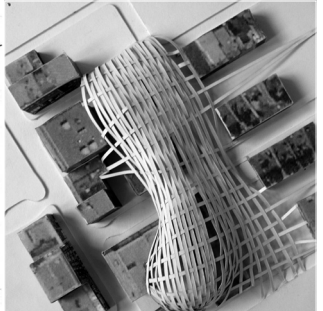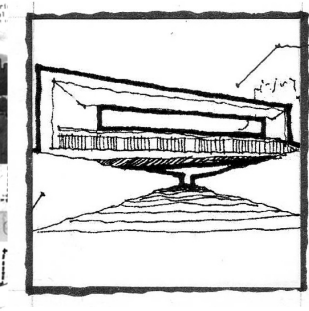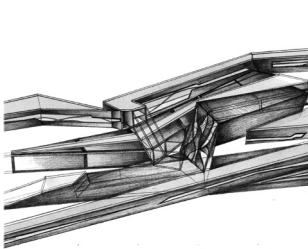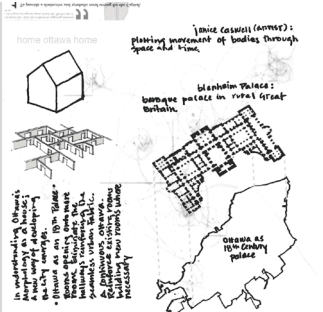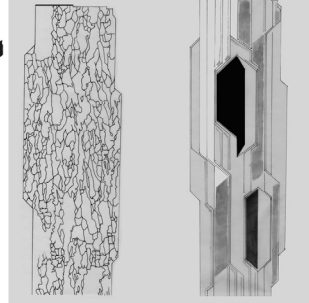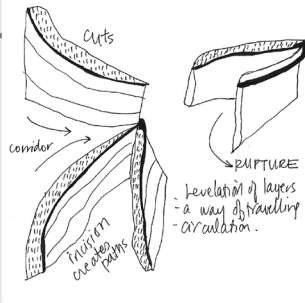
THE ROOF

REGREENING OTTAWA

GREEN SPOTS

BALANCE

ADAPTIVE REUSE

THE EARTH

BOUNDARY

MERGING WITH T

cuts

corridor

RUPTURE

- Levelation of layers
- a way of travelling
- circulation.

home ottawa home

janice caswell (artist): plotting movement of bodies through space and time

blenheim palace: baroque palace in rural Great Britain

OTTAWA AS 19th CENTURY PALACE

OTTAWA greenbelt.

modular options for water villas

PLANNING OF MOVEMENT

NAVIGATION

SENSES

Affordable Paradise: The Game

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Subjective Atlas of Ottawa

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