



Antiurban Visions: Radical Alternatives to the Traditional City alongside the 20th Century;

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Short description of the lecture:

This lecture reviews a series of utopian plans sprung from an anti-urban ideology which at intervals and under different forms crosses at least eight decades of the XXth century. The common trait of these radical proposals is the rejection of the idea of the traditional compact city, which becomes the starting point for the construction of new forms of settlement characterized by varied degrees of dispersion and different territorial organizations. The first aim is to consider the impact exerted on the development of these ideas by the work of Pyotr Kropotkin. All of them, although in different fashion, attempt to elaborate in visual terms Kropotkin's discourse. To succeed in this attempt the authors of these plans manage the construction of a specific visual imaginary able to portrait their utopian claims. The second aim then is to analyze the "representation effect" proper of this utopian language, pointing out how it is conceived in terms of diagrams rather than other traditional representation modes. The use of diagrams eventually activates a peculiar visual device effective for the virtual rather than the real, able to evoke worlds other than that which exists.

Contents:

1. The Anti-urban Ideology: the legacy of anarchy and social utopia
2. The Garden City
3. The Dissolution of Cities
4. The Soviet Linear City
5. Broadacre City
6. The Functional City
7. The Naked City
8. New Babylon
9. Non Stop City
10. The Diagrams of Utopia



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