price and the participatory turn
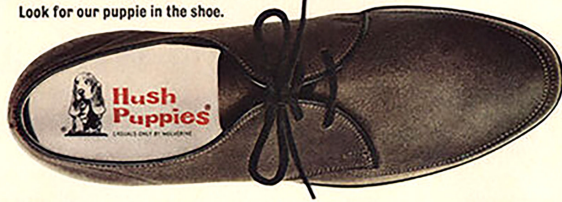
j.tait

delightful fun symposium

hush puppies: collective / individual

Hush Puppies Advertisement. 1966

"I consider it unlikely that architecture and planning will match the contribution Hush Puppies have made to society today, let alone approach that of the transistor or loop, until a total reappraisal of its particular expertise is self-imposed, or inflicted from the outside."

Cedric Price, 1966.

technology: questions first

Generator. 1976-1980
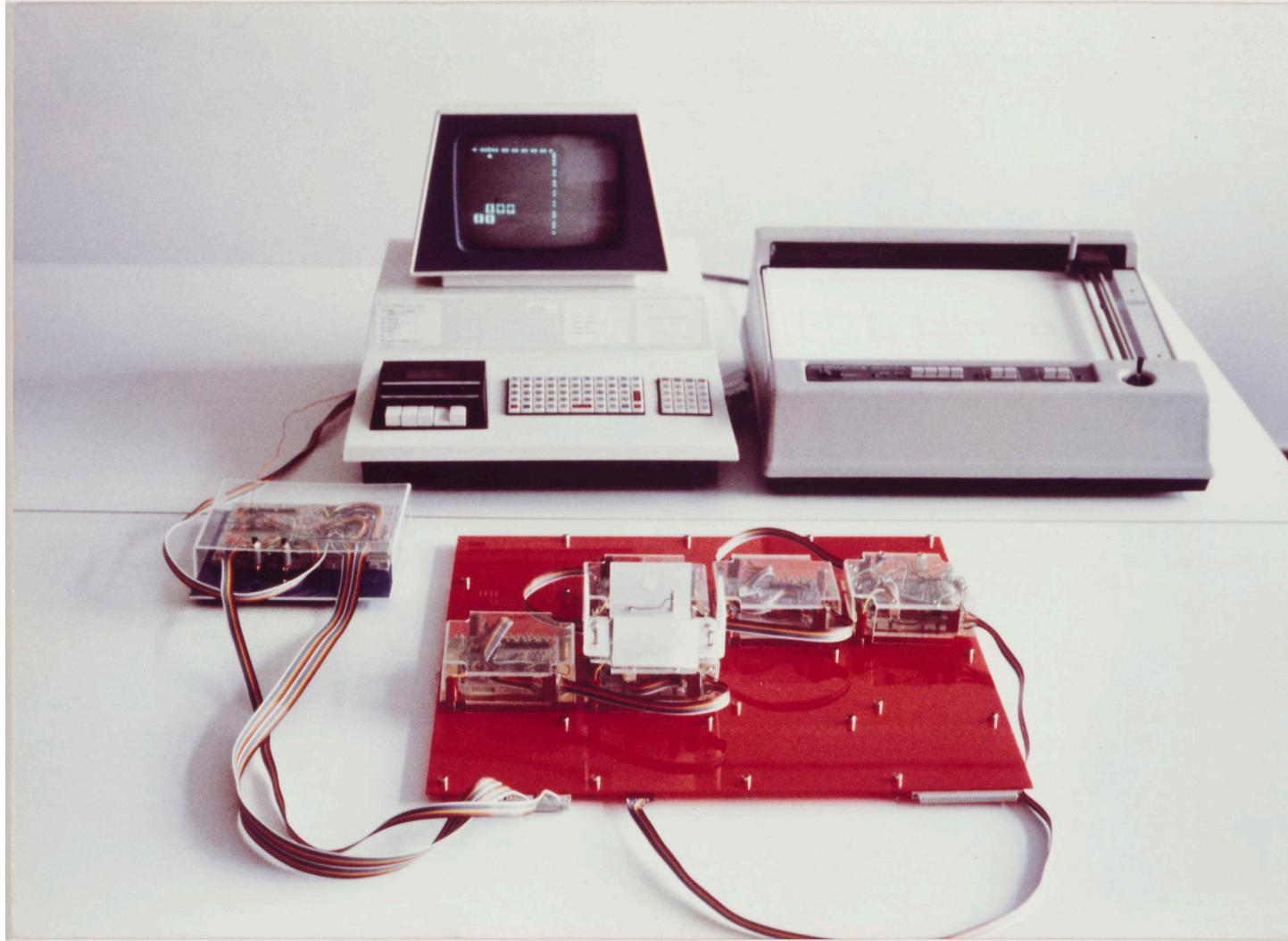
"If technology is the answer, what was the question?"

Cedric Price, 1966.

first participatory turn: open-source models

'Fab labs function like town libraries for technology, supporting a mix of for-profit and nonprofit activities. Like a library, they're used for education and entertainment, but like a factory they're also used to produce products and create community infrastructure.'

Neil Gershenfeld, 2007.

So tonight, I'm announcing the launch of three more of these manufacturing hubs, where businesses will partner with the department of defence and energy to turn regions left behind by globalisation into global centres of high-tech jobs. And I ask congress to help create a network of fifteen of these hubs, and guarantee that the next revolution in manufacturing is made right here in America. We can get that done.'

Barack Obama, 2013.

MIT,Fab Lab. 2003 -   FabLab 2013 - . *Makers in the Military*, Virginia, USA. DoD and Northrop Grumman

first participatory turn: open-source models
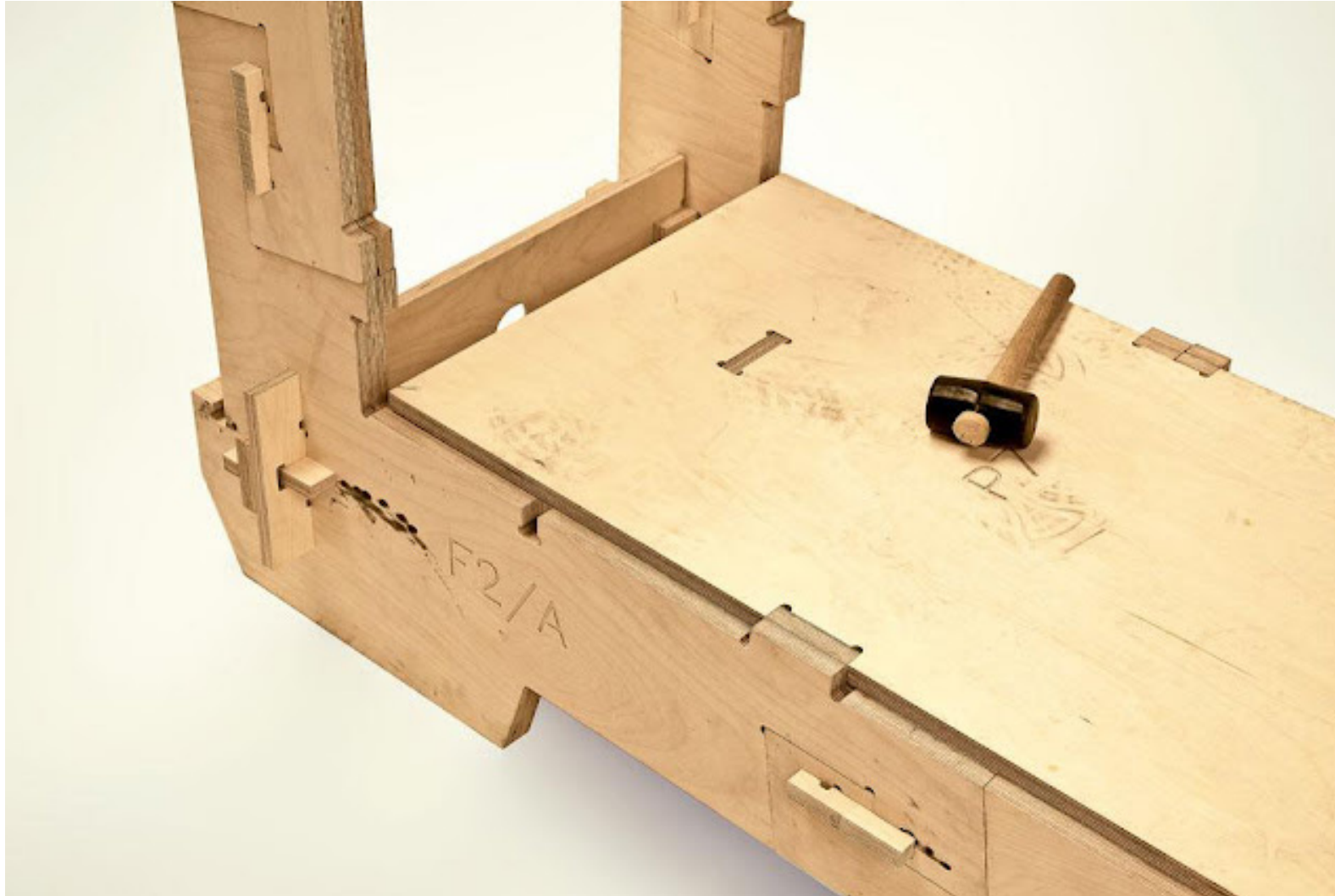
"Imagine if we could make designing and printing your house as easy as shopping on Amazon — and put it into the public domain forever... by the 99% for the 99%"

00, 2011

first participatory turn: bim
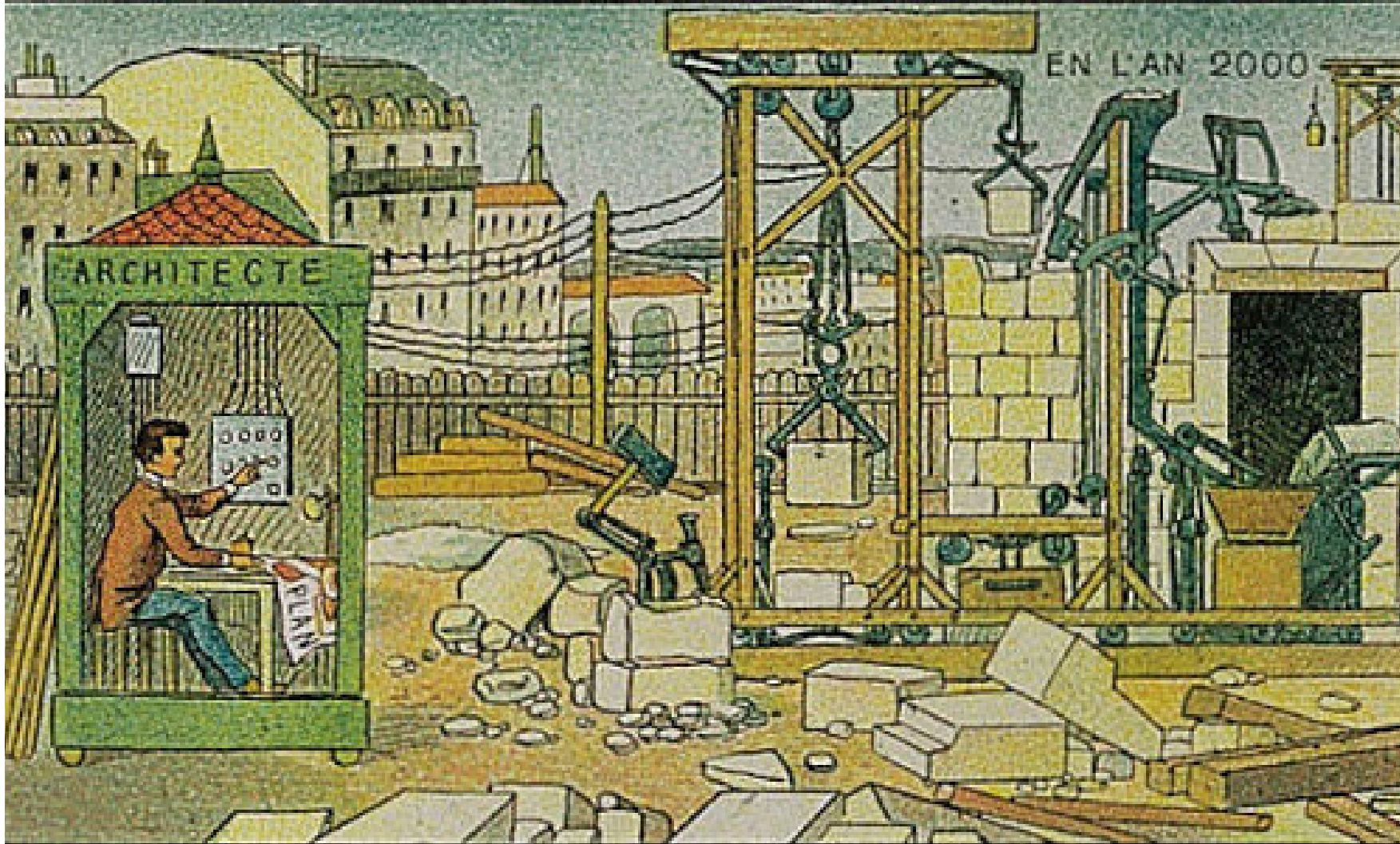
The Architect in 2000. Jean-Marc Côté. 1899.

".. building without contractors... we think we have made progress in the nature of the building process and the tools we use to accomplish that."

Phil Bernstein (Revit Founder), 2015

bim: towards a fully digitalised mechanisation - obligation

Platform II allows flexibility for clients while still harnessing the benefits of standardisation:
- The column/beam interface + method of assembly are always the same.
- However, column and beam length can vary.

VARIES
Number of bays variable to architectural requirement

VARIES
Not necessarily equal to other bays

VARIES
Not necessarily equal to other bays

VARIES
Not necessarily equal to other bays

Section sizes subject to change to achieve structural performance requirements, connections and interfaces remain unchanged.

VARIES
Level height subject to architectural requirement (levels not necessarily equal).

VARIES
Level height subject to architectural requirement (levels not necessarily equal).

VARIES
Number of storeys up to 24

'Following the progress made through collaboration with industry on platform approaches and to support achieving its strategic outcomes, the government is committing to increased use of platform approaches in construction where proportionate and appropriate...' [1]

'... a product platform...' [2]

'... the programme will deliver... 'new digital building designs for digitally designed and industrially manufactured kits of component parts for homes, schools and other built assets, which can be procured by construction clients...' [3]

1   HM Government. (2022). *Modern Methods of Construction: Guidance Note*. London: HM Government.
2   Ibid.
3   Ibid.

Platform Approach Diagram - Bryden Wood

generative ai: virtual reality / concrete nothing - novelty

'Debates are held from contradictory positions. If you want a glaring example, we have Virtual Reality which is rather like Concrete Nothing... a magnificent oxymoron.'

Umberto Eco
Chronicles of a Liquid Society, 2017

'More data! More data, at any cost!' My update of Siegfried Giedion's definition of the 'imperious demand' of the industrial age: "Production, ever-faster production, production at any cost."

Siegfried Giedion
Mechanization Takes Command, 1948

AI-generated design proposal
Zaha Hadid Architects, 2022

AI-generated design proposal
SPAN (Matias del Campo/Sandra Manninger), 2022

technology fueled by ideas

22 SECTION 1

Reptile structural system: John Frazer, 1966 onwards.
Design of gymnasium generated by semi-automatic process from a single seed. Computer drawing, Cambridge University mathematical laboratory, 1970.

'The late 1960s and early 1970s became a prolonged thought experiment for myself and fellow students at the time. There were no affordable computers to speak of, so the only option was to imagine that they existed and imagine all the rest of the technology and social and political change necessary to realise dreams. This is what I mean by computing without computers; a mental rehearsal of what architecture and a built environment would be like at the beginning of the 21st century.'

John Frazer, 2005.

an architecture of desire
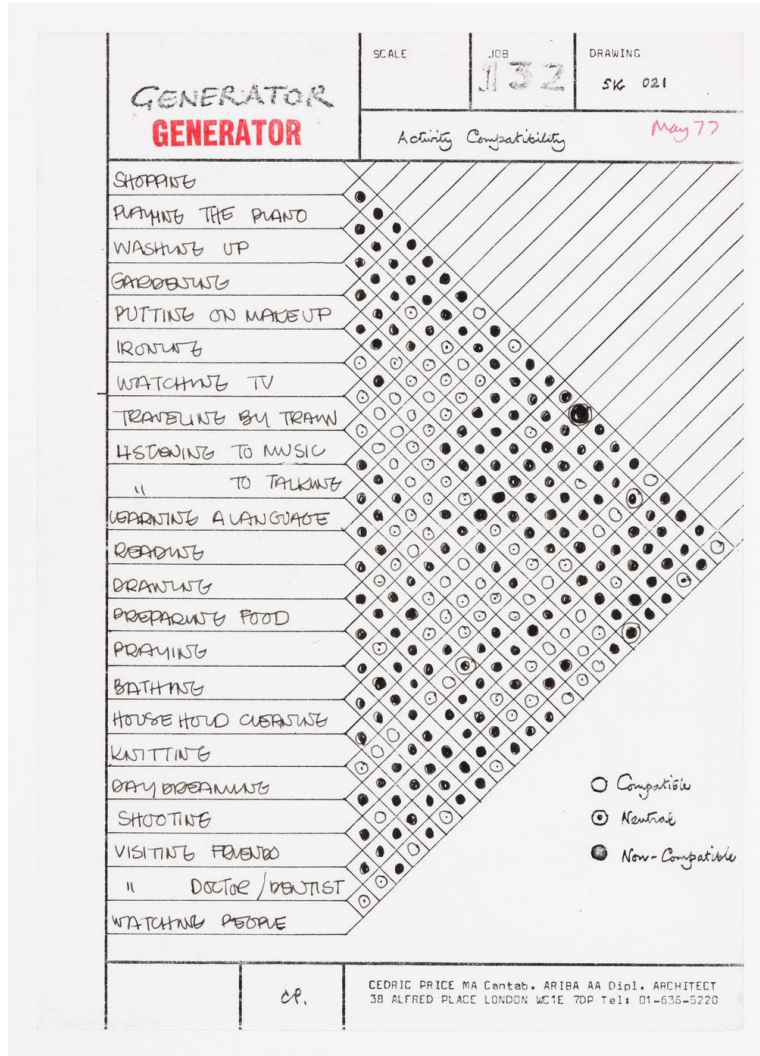
'Architecture should have little to do with problem solving. Rather it should create desirable conditions and opportunities hitherto (not) thought possible. With this intention the client asked me to investigate whether architecture could help in providing such conditions for the individual and the group from both inside and outside the company ....The Generator was born – an architectural complex with no previous title and no predefined use, only a desired end effect..'

Cedric Price, 1978.

an architecture of adaptability
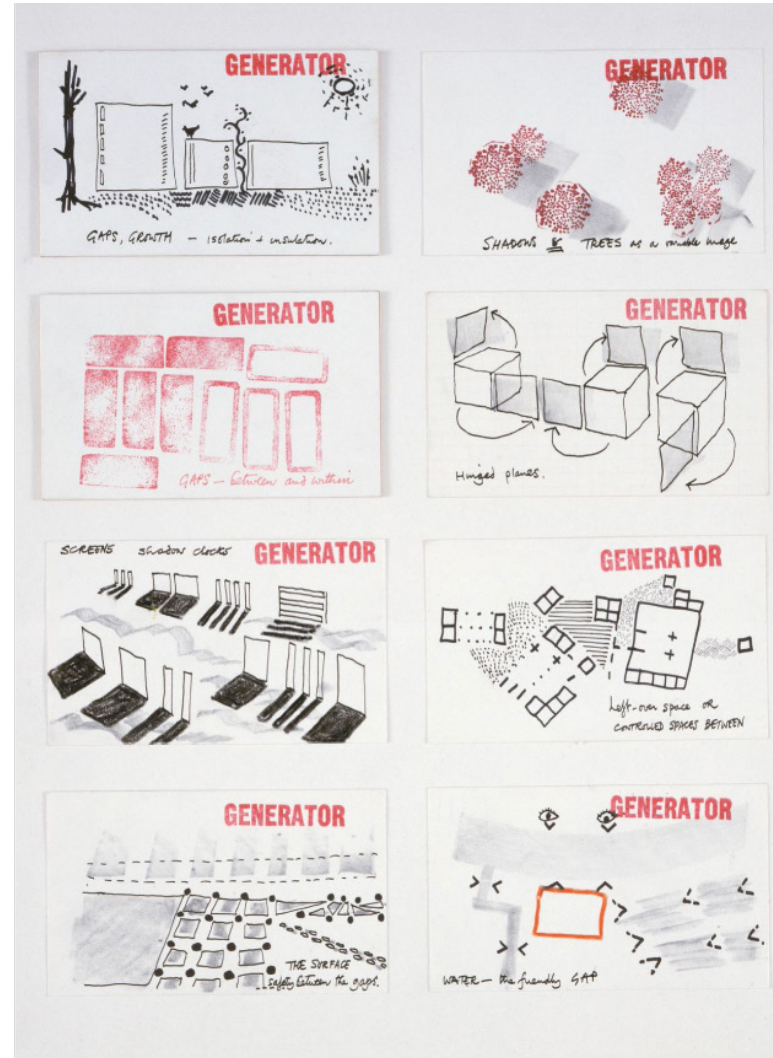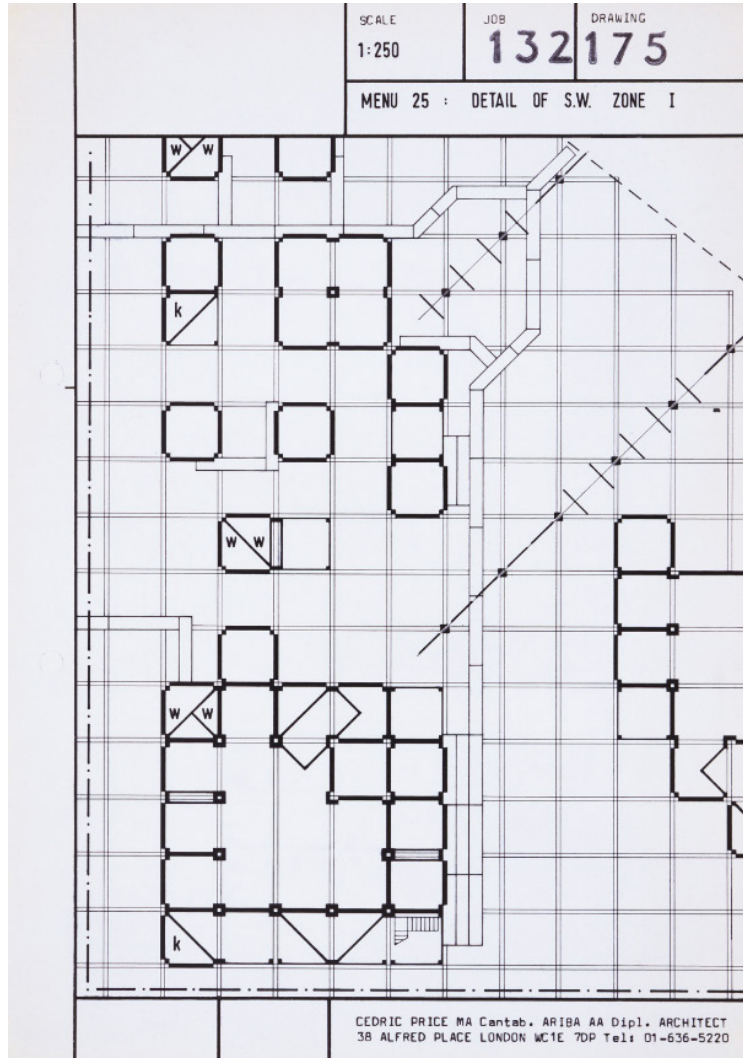
'The questionnaire was comprised of eight items necessary to initiate the design: the company and its products, the plantation's activities, the site's history, natural and animal elements, weather, site conditions, accommodation and future plans... bug seasons... soil conditions...' '

Generator Criteria, 1978

'The idea of 'place' is only a rough practical approximation: there is nothing logically necessary about it, and it cannot be made precise', and then suggests that it is interaction, not place, that is the essence of the city and city life.'
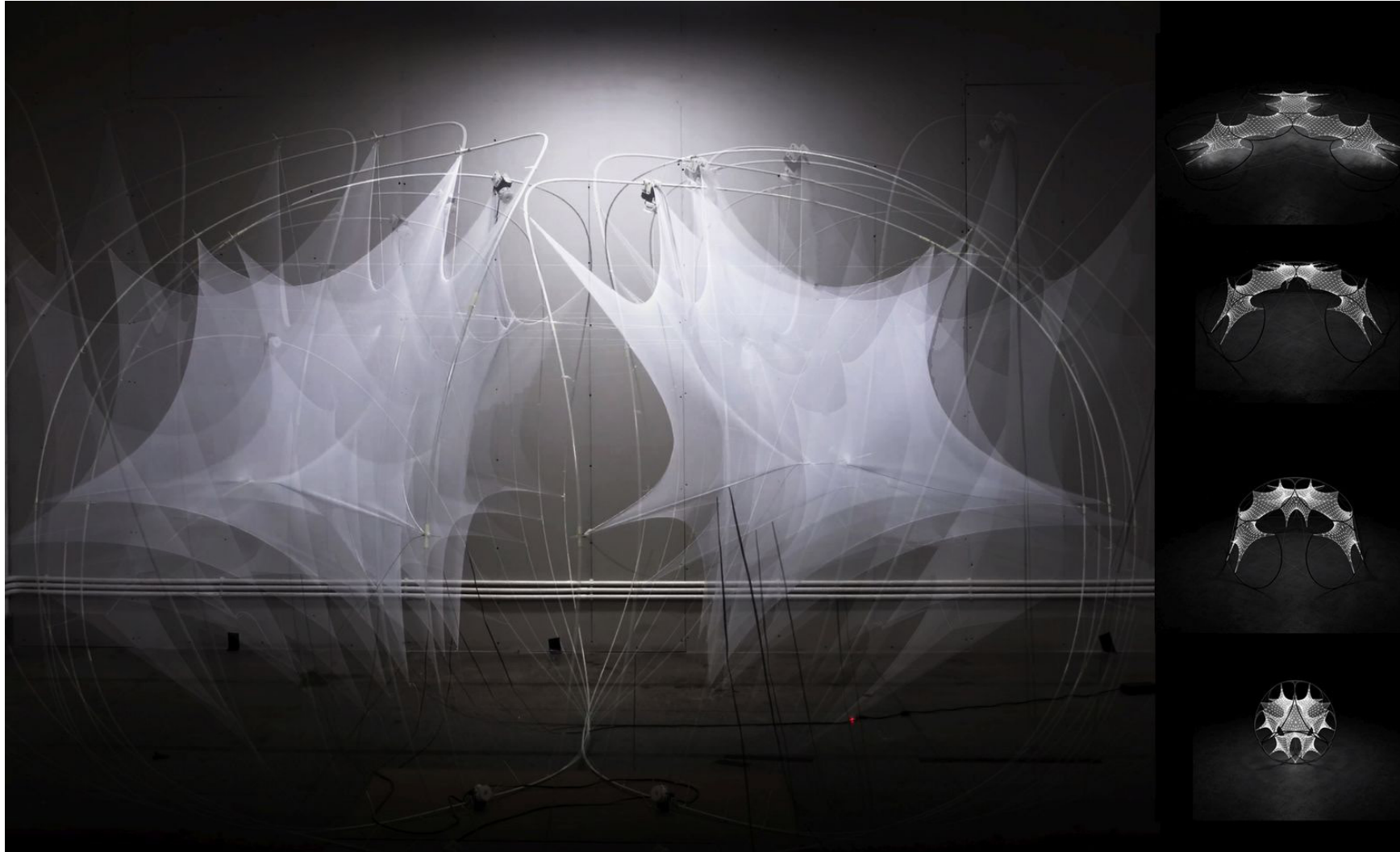
Cedric Price, 1966

a second participatory turn?: desire and choice
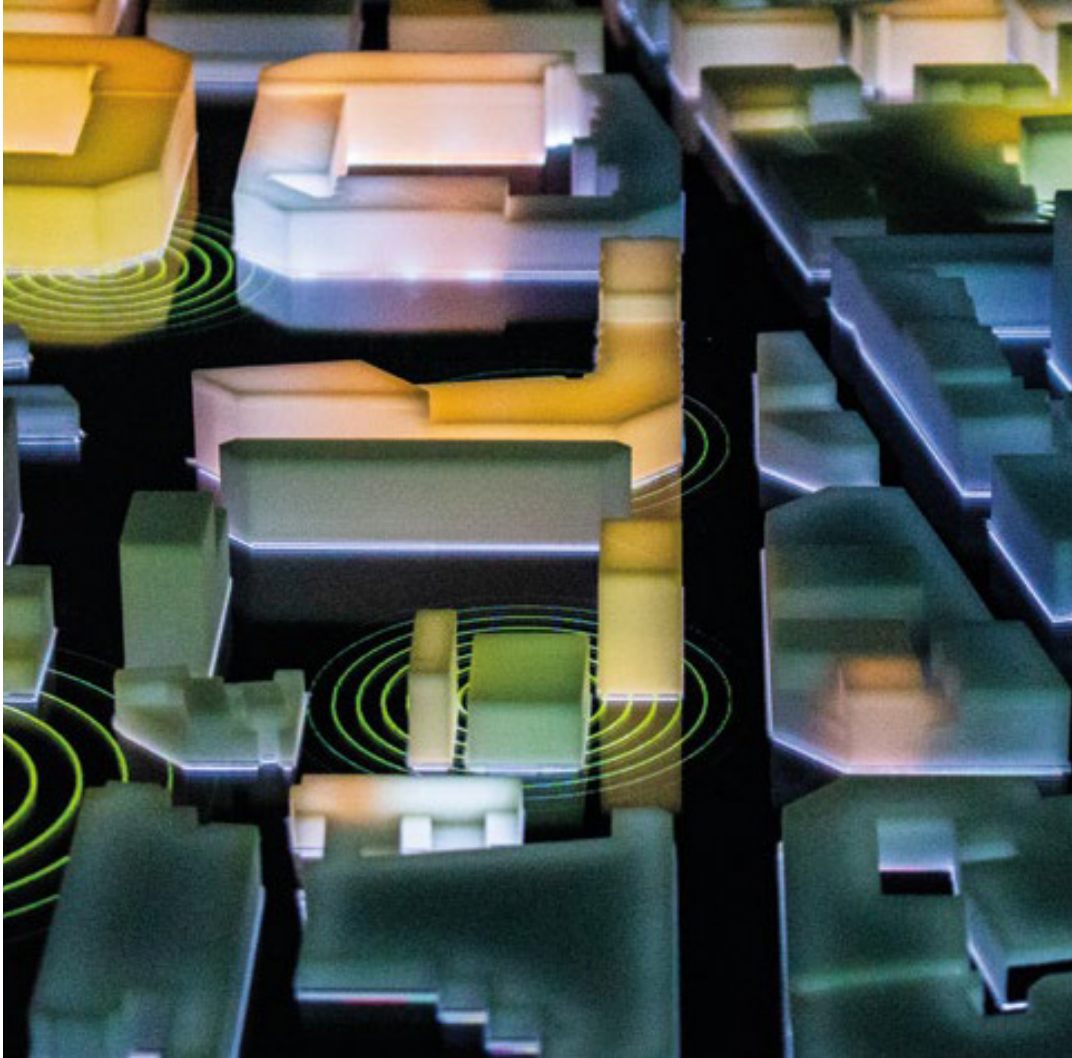
Urban simulator of networked buildings, processing infrastructural data, user desires and urban-planning scenarios. IAAC, City & Technology, Internet of Buildings, 2019.

a second participatory turn?: adaptability

Elastic Choreographies 2021. Valentina Soana. Bartlett School of Architecture.

what are the questions?

UN SDG: 11.3: enhance capacities for participatory settlement

Weaving installation integrating digital fabrication technology with local craft. Daoming, China. © Bian Lin.

UN SDG: 11.c: support sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials planning and management in all

thank you...