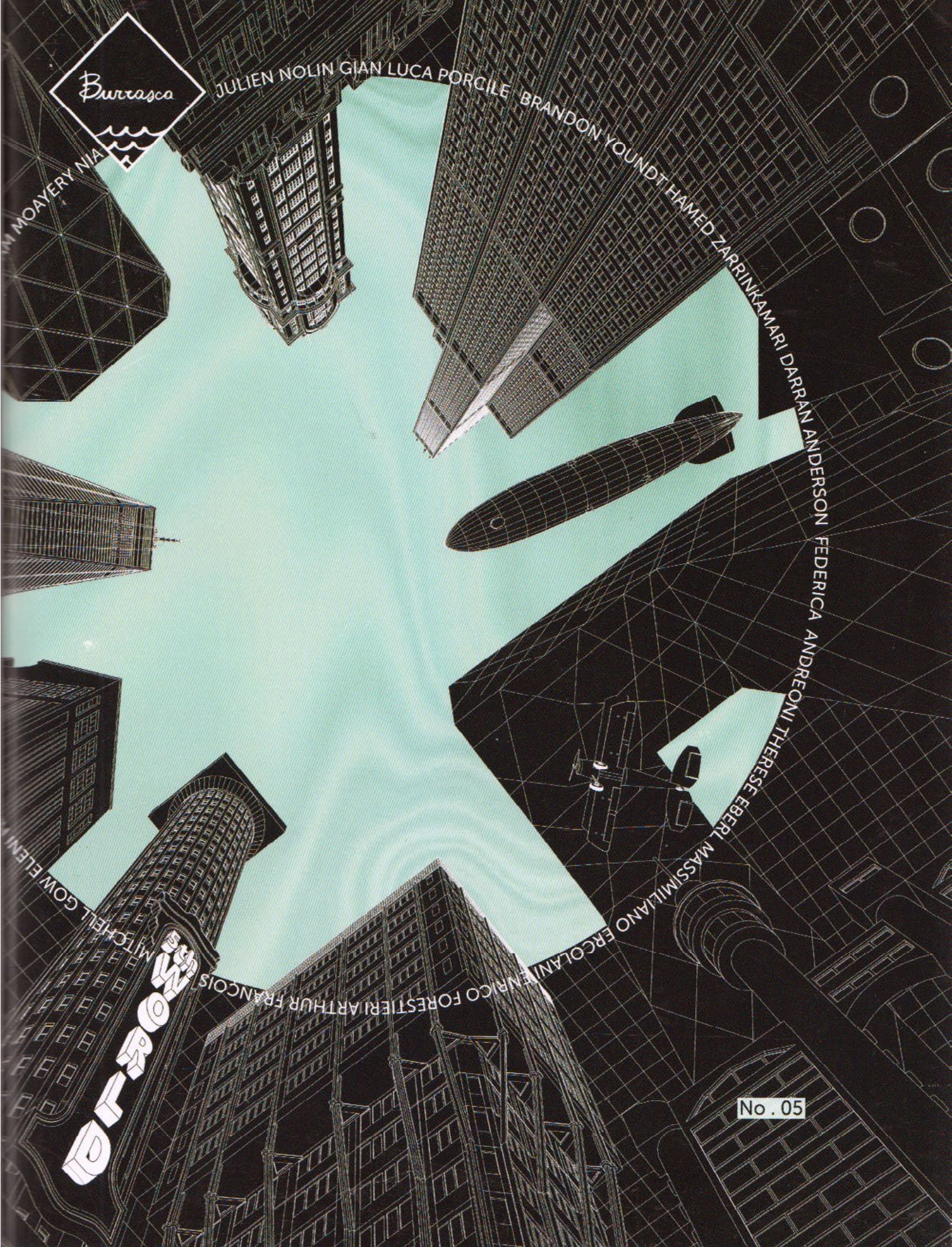
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No . 05

5th World

NOVEMBER 2016, #5
to David Bowie

Burrasca is a cultural association based in Genova which focuses on thinking and realizing different activities: from independent architectural publications to exhibitions and other editorial and graphic projects.

This association, created as a sort of think tank, aims to be a platform of discussion by which we want to propose reflections, information and activities about Architecture under a large range of meanings.
Each Burrasca's publication tackles one theme. Contributions are collected by a call for submissions. Burrasca's intent is then to make emerging relationships appear.

The interpretation is both graphic and editorial and it is built up trough illustrations and extra content. We encourage inventive and original contributions from every person, even independent thinkers and people notrelated with any academic environment.
This open structure provides us with the most diverse kind of contributions, succeeding in representing our fast-changing world. In the same way we give a great importance to illustration, which is in our thoughts a powerful means able to communicate Architecture to a wide audience.

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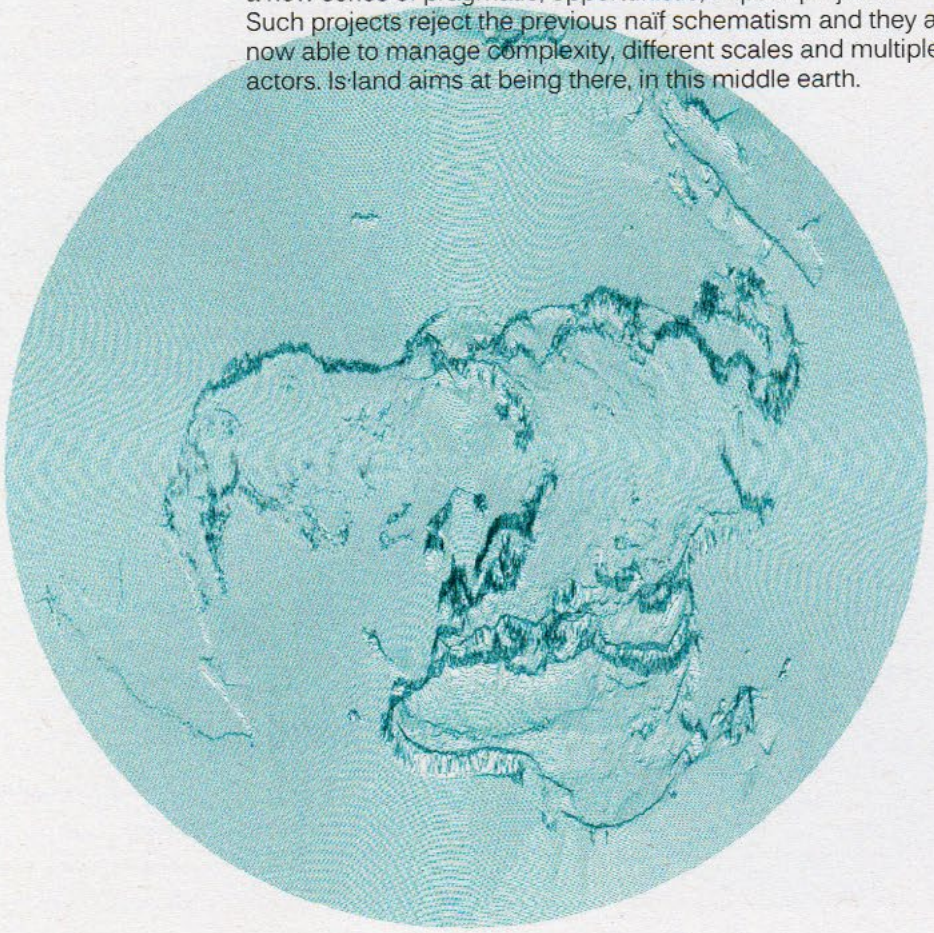
Enrico Forestieri

IS·LAND: A PRAGMATIC UTOPIA

UTOPIA RELOADED

Visionary utopias of the Sixties and Seventies, fluctuating between idea(lism) and (mega)structures were blown away by the first oil crisis because of their reduced adaptability and scalability.
Since the Nineties, more urgent material constraints and important technological advances have influenced and driven a new series of pragmatic, opportunistic, impure projects.
Such projects reject the previous naïf schematism and they are now able to manage complexity, different scales and multiple actors. Is·land aims at being there, in this middle earth.



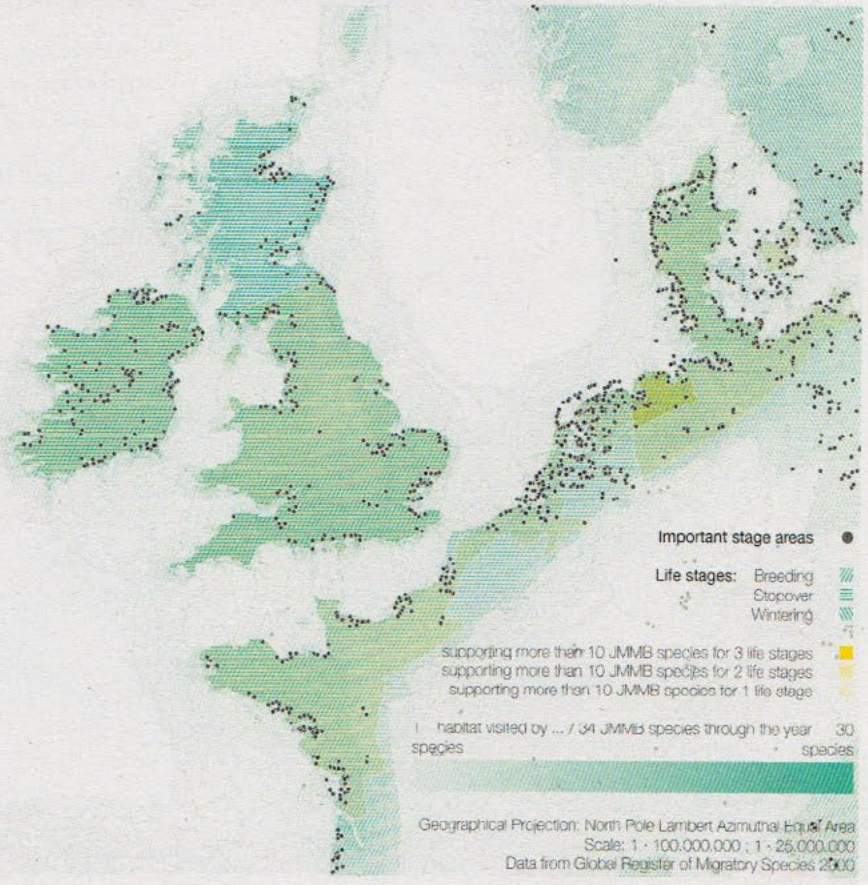
"Separate to protect" has so far been the environmentalists' answer to the environmental crisis.

FROM ENVIRONMENTAL-ENVIRONMENTALISTS CRISIS TO POST-ENVIRONMENTAL MODELS

The Earth is a reduced space of negotiation. Up until recently, environmental problems did not patently assume conflicting characteristics because of the resources surplus and the reduced anthropic pressure.[1]

"Separate to protect" has so far been the environmentalists' answer to the environmental crisis. During the last decades, the extent of protected areas has been growing exponentially,[2] nevertheless, the environmental problem persists and worsens; this could be a sign that, once again, the "Indian reservation" strategy is not working properly.

Central Europe coast is an heterogeneous interchange area supporting at least 2 bird life stages for more than 10 JMMB species through the year.



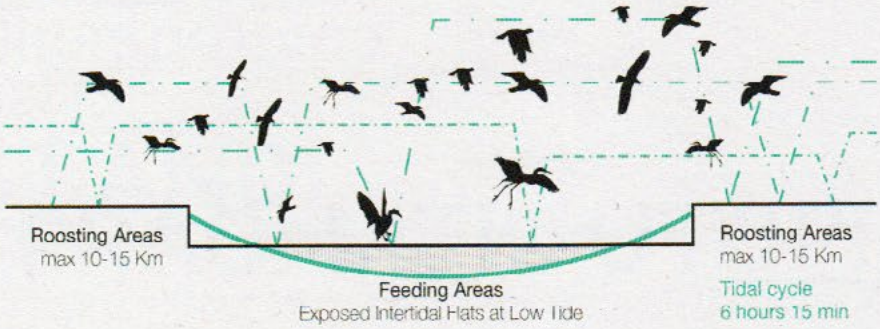
1. Brad Ewing, David Moore, Steven Goldfinger, Anne Oursler, Anders Reed, and MathisWackernagel, *EcologicalFootprint Atlas* 2010 (Oakland: Global Footprint Network, 2010), 18-27.

2. IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC, *The World Database on Protected Areas* (WDPA) (Cambridge, UNEP-WCMC, 2010) and www.protectedplanet.net (2011).

Total presence of 34 JMMB species

Dependence on WSA habitat
Percentage on total flyway population

Daily cycle: syncronization of tidal fluctuations, spatial occupancy and daily activities



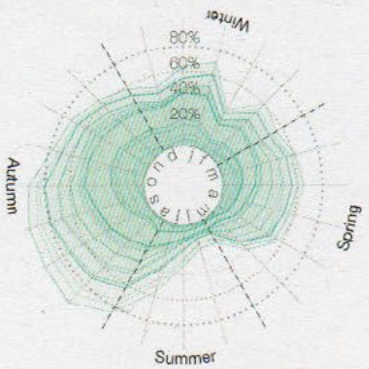
Is·land is not intended as a self–sufficient monad: on the contrary, it enhances and strengthens relationships between regional scattered communities.

LEARNING FROM MIGRATORY BIRDS

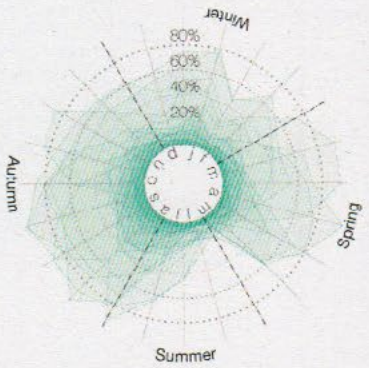
A natural park, though wide, still remains a zoo at the landscape scale, designed and tailored on sedentary animals. The insular strategy can only partially guarantee the potential qualities of the ecosystems, because harmful volatile or soluble components simply cross legal constraints.
Migratory birds, with their use of the extended territories, stress clearly the limits of such a strategy, but at the same time, they unintentionally point out a model where habitats boundaries are less univocally defined and where intensity and duration of environmental pressure is linked to energetic parameters and to cyclic, temporal constraints.
Their cyclic nomadism represents a refined strategy[3] of reversible management of territorial resources. This model is much more sophisticated than the sedentary one, where moving is the *extrema ratio* in case of end/lack of resources. In the current moment of environmental–ist crisis, could people reconsider their predominant sedentary condition in favour of a more fluid model? What can we learn from migratory birds?

Annual cycle: phenology analisys for 34 JMMB migratory species monitored at Wadden Sea

Based on Wadden Sea Secretariat data, 2009



Total presence of 34 JMMB species



Dependence on WSA habitat
Percentage on total flyway population

IS·LAND: A MOVING LANDSCAPE THROUGH THE WADDEN SEA REGION

The Wadden Sea Region (WSR) is a one million hectares natural park between the Netherlands and Denmark. It is a geographical and functional spot for migratory birds, a hyper-protected area and a region with evident socio–economic imbalances.[4] The project suggests a post–environmental[5] scenario of cohabitation with humans and socialized non–humans,[6] based on the constant negotiation of Spaces, Time, Cycles.

It questions the prevailing sedentary attitude of humans, looking at birds cyclic nomadism as a smart strategy for managing natural resources. Beyond an *ecotouristic* segregated model, it rethinks of WSR as a "mixing chamber." It softens the neatness of the actual protected area limit; it promotes a greater porosity of the "sensible area" borders; it increases, diversifies and overlaps heterogeneous activities taking advantage of the cyclical variations at WSR; it promotes an energetic strategy based on a redundant grid of scattered elements.

Within this regional scale plan, Is·land is a "mobile harbour:" a transient, functional landscape that operates in the Wadden sea tidal area, generating a brand new hybrid context for human and non–human cohabitation. Unexpected synergies and virtuous circles spring among local flora and fauna and a varied nomadic community composed of scientific researchers, tourists, farmers, entrepreneurs, old and young *flaneurs*.

1. Brad Ewing, David Moore, Steven Goldfinger, Anna Oursler, Anders Reed, and MathisWackernagel, *EcologicalFootprint Atlas 2010* (Oakland: *Global Footprint Network, 2010*), 18-27.

2. IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC, *The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)* (Cambridge, UNEP-WCMC, 2010) and www.protectedplanet.net (2011).

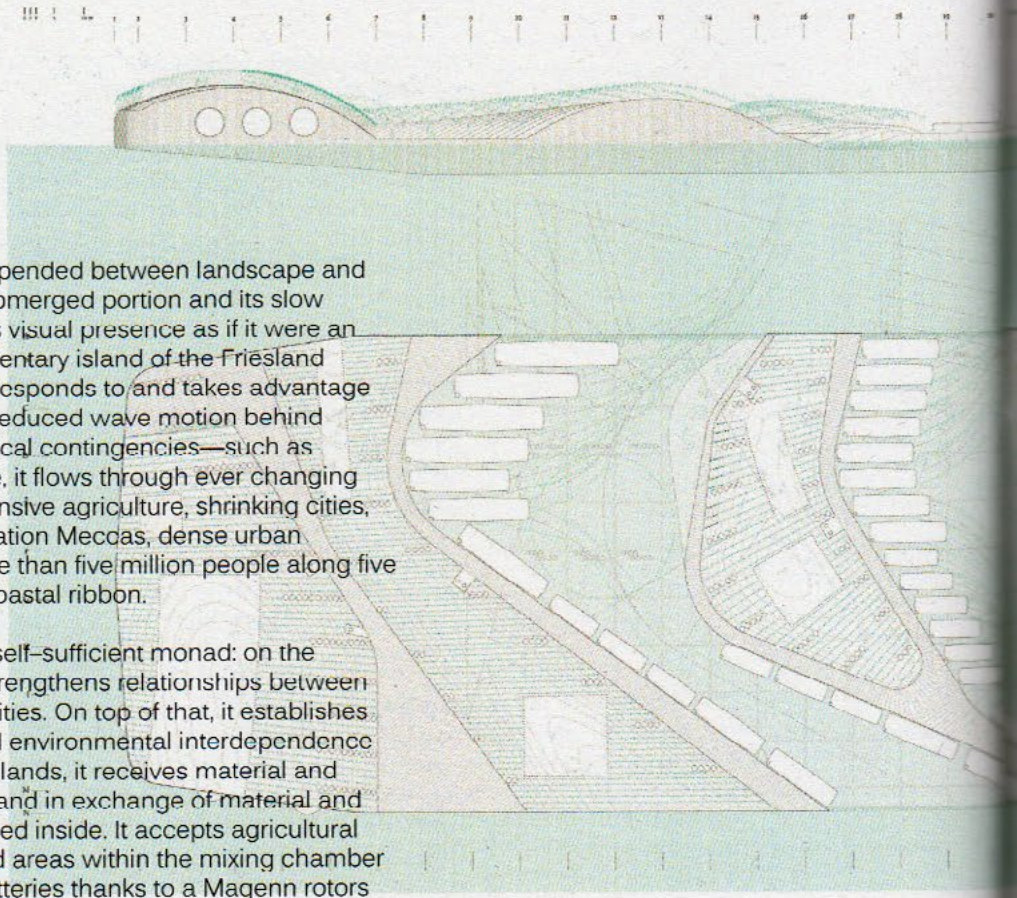
3. Among others: Theunis Piersma, "Hop, Skip,Jump? Constraints on Migration of Arctic Waders by Feeding, Fattening and Flight Speed" originally published in Dutch in *Limosa* 60 (1987), 185-194; Deborah Buehler, and TheunisPiersma, "Travelling on a budget: predictions and ecological evidence for bottlenecks in the anual cycle of long-distancemigrants," *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Biological Sciences*, Royal Society Publishing 363 (2008), 247-266; Lukas Jenni, and Michael Schaub, "Behavioural and Physiological Reactionsto Environmental Variation in BirdMigration: a Review", in Peter Berthold, EberhardGwinner, and Edith Sonnenschein ed., *AvianMigration* (Berlin: Heidelberg, SpringerVerlag, 2003), 155-171.

4. Prognos, "Sector specificanalysis and perspectivesfortheWadden Sea Region," in *Wadden Sea ForumReport No. 8* (Berlin: Prognos AG, 2004), 197-200.

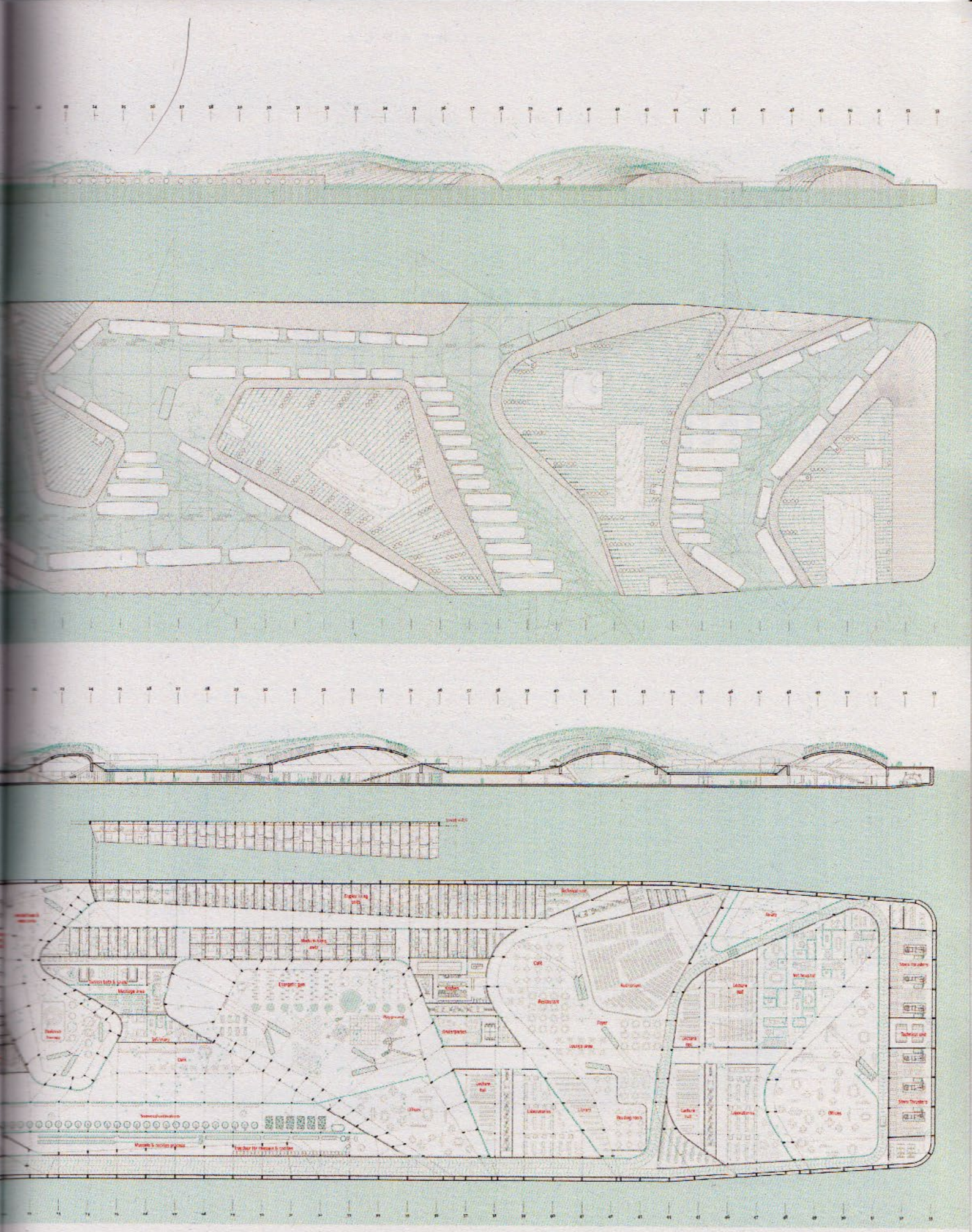
5. Andrea Branzi, "For a Post-Environmentalism: SevenSuggestionsfor a New Athens Charter," in Mohsen Mostafavi, Gareth Doherty ed., *Ecological Urbanism* (Zurich: Lars Müller Publishers and Harvard University, 2010), 110-113.

6. Bruno Latour, *WeHaveNeverBeen Modern* (Cambridge: Harvard UniversityPress, 1993).

7. Cedric Price, "Potteries Thinkbelt, Life Conditioning" in *Architectural Design* 36 (October 1966), 483-497 and 483-484.



Is·land is a middle earth suspended between landscape and domestic scale; its semi-submerged portion and its slow movement—3 mph—blur its visual presence as if it were an unstable mirage, a supplementary island of the Friesland archipelago. Its movement responds to and takes advantage of local conditions—as the reduced wave motion behind Friesland Islands—and cyclical contingencies—such as tidal streams. Along its route, it flows through ever changing scenarios—wild nature, intensive agriculture, shrinking cities, post-industrial districts, vacation Meccas, dense urban cores—interfacing with more than five million people along five hundred kilometres of the coastal ribbon.

Is·land is not intended as a self-sufficient monad: on the contrary, it enhances and strengthens relationships between regional scattered communities. On top of that, it establishes a tight social, economic and environmental interdependence with mainland. Every time it lands, it receives material and energetic inputs from mainland in exchange of material and intangible products developed inside. It accepts agricultural products planted in selected areas within the mixing chamber ribbon and recharges its batteries thanks to a Magenn rotors network; in return, it converts itself in a temporary plug—an Instant City—for each of the guest communities.

Its residents can experience different degrees of autonomy and dependence from "the Is·land." Floating mobile units allow people to plan their own trips independently from Is·land's scheduled journey, and their continuous deliberate relocation—a kind of calculated sprawl[7]—turns into a real time strategy to redistribute anthropic pressure on WSR. Inside the barge, a programmatic landscape mixes together public and private functions, while a series of conveyor belts connect with fluidity the upper and lower deck, merging seamlessly the outside and the inside.
Is·land is a pragmatic utopia.