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How can architecture survive 2016?

Inspired by the sequence of events that followed the AIA president's corroborating response to Donald Trump's proposal of the half trillion infrastructure projects, this studio intends to envision a series of part architectural part infrastructural projects under the assumption that many of these "crumbling" infrastructure might become obsolete in the near future. Think of the high line of the future, and more.

To put the site and program in a more specific context, in the techno/digital utopia, we will have much less "under-utilized" mobility resources. Less parked cars on the streets, less parking garages, or even some rarely visited roads will cease to exist. If increased efficiency in mobility can release our cities from the scarcity of space in these unlikely places, even just for a little bit, what can we do with them?

In the process of re-appropriating them for new social and economical circumstances, we will also inevitably confront with the questions of who owns these infrastructure, who do they serve, who is the benefactor of maintaining them versus the active de(con)struction. Rather than avoiding the discussion, we would embrace the inherent political dimension in a utopian project.

But of course, we should have fun as architects. Since the project is not an adaptive reuse project per se, and any version of the future needs a form (however subtle), we will also investigate pure formal strategies that can define and express the properties of your version. We will look into the ancient past for clues for the near future – traveling to Istanbul and study the many layers of civic structures.

Students will work in groups of 3-4 - each group working under one scenario with focus on one mobility mode. Each student will then develop their own project within the group framework. The format of presentation will be multi-media with one movie, one group model and free-style for individual projects. The work should consist of a lot of dialogue, a lot of exploratory readings, and a lot of fun.