FH MÜNSTER
University of Applied Sciences

MSA FB Architektur
Münster School of Architecture

Snohetta "The Spark", Body & Brain of a Power City, 2018

Master

Summer 23

ma.m2.2 Design

Course

Prof. Kirsten Schemel

Lecturer

Data Scape. SUPERSTUDIO with Prof. Schanné

Title

One image we associate with virtual world is that of a placeless cloud.
Physical implications are data centres, located along fibre optic nodes & power supply chains. They are buildings for machines, "posthuman architecture", not in keeping with the impetus of architecture designed for humans. Their almost invisible, windowless architecture resists the logic of transparency associated with stored content. There are about 53,000 data centres in Germany with an electricity demand of 16 billion kWh per year. In order to realise Industry 4.0, Smart Cities, autonomous driving, etc., the demand for this type of building and its energy requirements is increasing exponentially. Google will invest more than 1 billion euros in the construction of 2 data centres in Germany by 2030.
In his "Server Manifesto", Niklas Maak pleads for our data as a collective treasure of the digital society not to be left to a handful of tech giants, but to be understood as a public good. He postulates a "Centre Pompidou for the digital age" as the new building typology of the 21st century. In this field of tension between material, ecological and spatial arguments, we will develop designs for contemporary DataScapes.

Course Desription

K. J. Neubauer "Datenspeichergebäude. Im Spannungsfeld zwischen gesell-schaftlicher Bedeutung und räumlicher Präsenzlosigkeit
https://automated-landscapes.hetnieuweinstituut.nl/en/activities/automated-landscapes-data-centers
Niklas Maak "Servermanifest"
Niklas Maak "Technophoria"
Francesca Bria "Die smarte Stadt neu denken“
Esther Paniagua "Error 404 : der Ausfall des Internets & seine Folgen für die Welt"

Recommended Reading