

THE ARCHITECTURE OF INTELLIGENCE

Derrick de Kerckhove

62. RELATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Space in cyberspace is purely relational (both geometrically and socially) (Dodge and Kitchin, 2001).

Often the most challenging, the use of networked architecture to create communities and relationships is growing rapidly. Rafael Lozano-Hemmer has named "relational architecture", architecture that is based not only on topology, but also on making use of media to connect people to buildings and spaces in a configured relationship:

In relational architecture, buildings are activated so that the input of the people in the street can provide narrative implications apart from those envisioned by the architects, developers or dwellers. The pieces use sensors, networks and audiovisual technologies to transform the buildings.

Alzado Vectorial

Among the most impressive applications of this concept is *Alzado Vectorial*. From anywhere in the world, via the Internet, people are invited to create the design for the pattern of projector beams over the Zócalo Square of Mexico City. To do this, they enter various parameters following simple instructions on a web site. This selection generates commands that automatically sequence and coordinate the projections. "In particular, light projections are used since they can achieve the desired monumental scale, can be changed in real time, and their immateriality makes their deployment more logistically feasible" (Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, *Interview with Geert Lovink, Vectorial Elevation*, Conaculta Ed., Mexico 2000, p. 55).

The effect is a light show, but the cause is an architecture of connectivity. Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's approach falls into the ephemeral, instant architecture, entirely based on networks from conception to realization and sustenance. *Alzado Vectorial* is an instant space. The results are spectacular and also metaphorical. They provide us with a radically new understanding of an esthetics of networks proper. The projected patterns are creating an epiphany-making manifest in a visible mode from the coherence and beauty of invisible connections across the planet.

