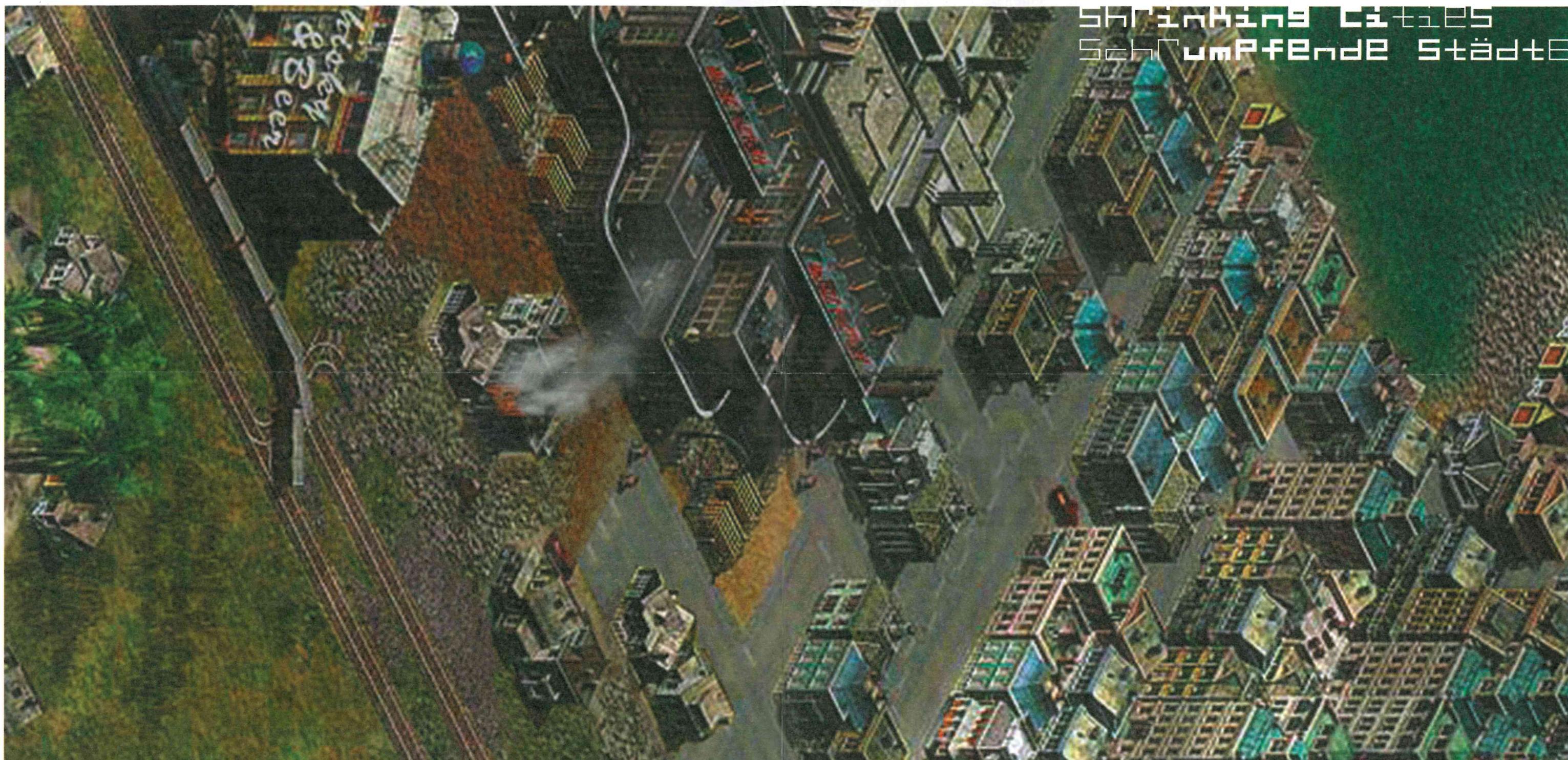
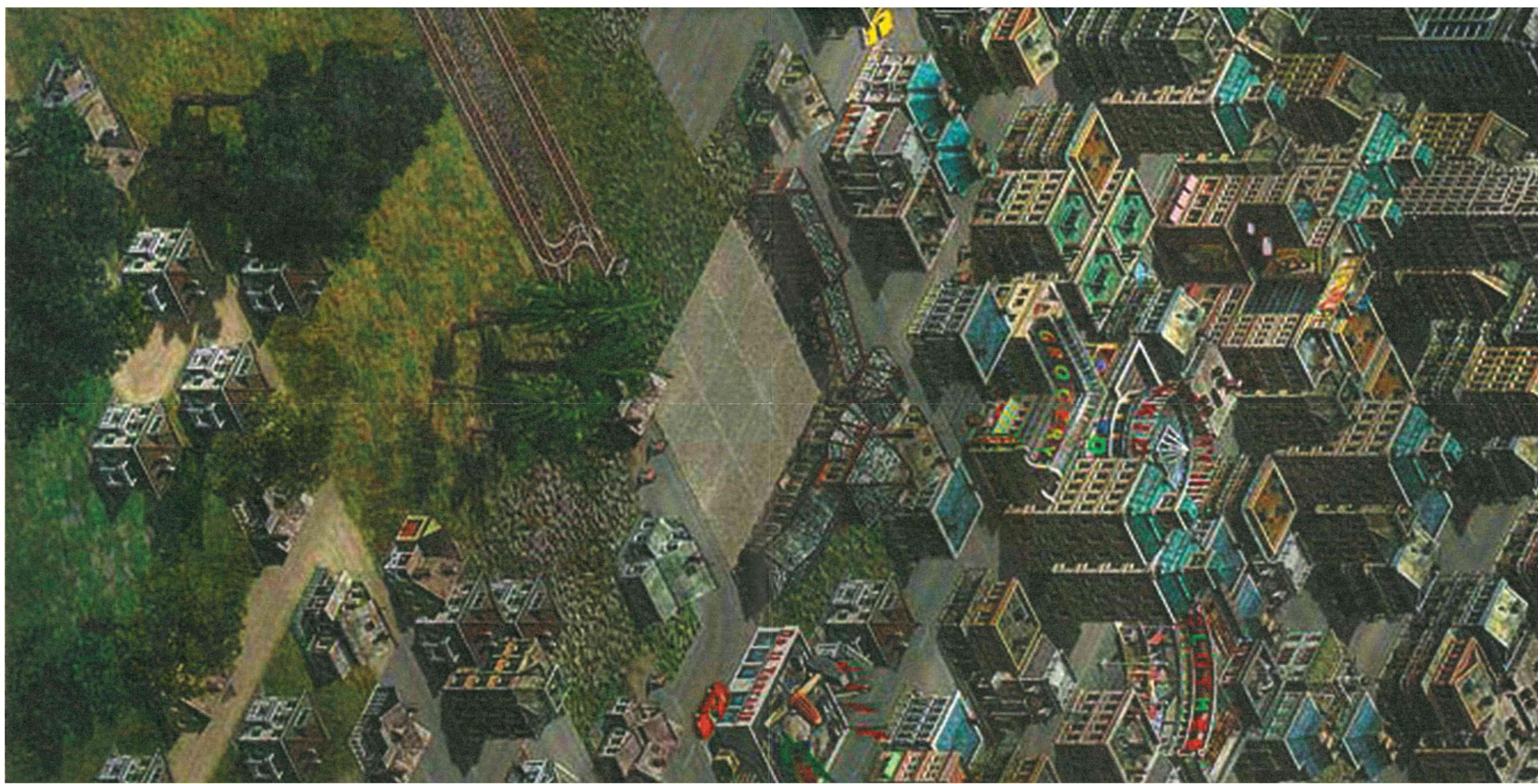
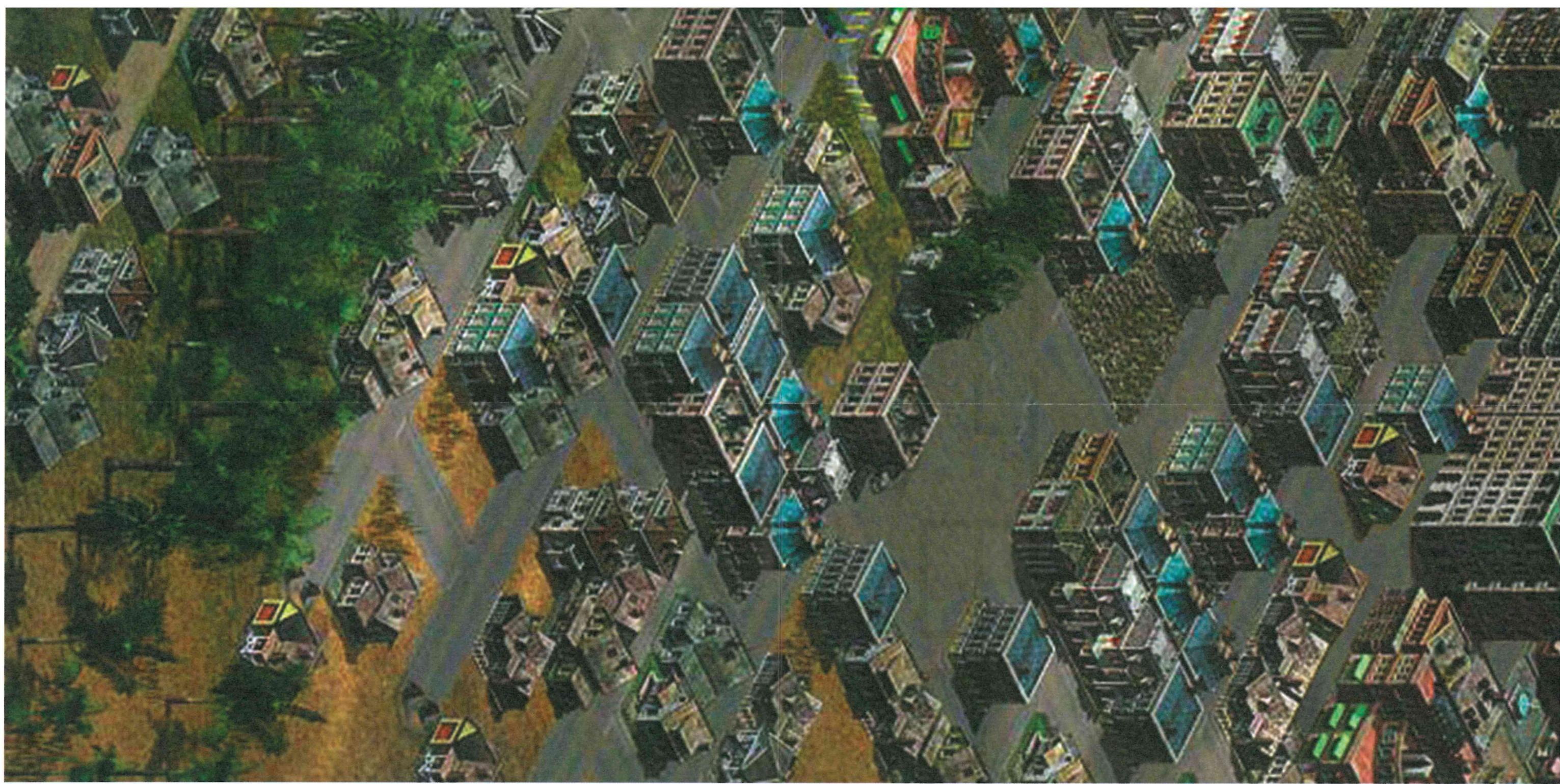


SHREWDNESS CITIES
Schwundende Städte







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Erweiterte Ausstellung in Leipzig, lokale Interventionen
Realisierung
2005 April/Mai
Aussstellung in Berlin, Publikation
Ausschreibung Webewerb Arch+
Entwurfswerkstatt, Direktaufräge, Reisesтипendien
form unter www.shrinkincities.com
Workshops und Symposien; Einrichten ehemaliger Arbeitsspitze
Internationale Recherche, Fachöffentliche interdisziplinäre

Zerfall

2004 Februar
2004 Ausschreibung Webewerb Arch+
Entwurfswerkstatt, Direktaufräge, Reisesтипendien
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Workshops und Symposien; Einrichten ehemaliger Arbeitsspitze
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2005 April/Mai
Realisierung
2005 April/Mai
Aussstellung in Berlin, Publikation

Whether in the United States, Russia or China, in Panama, Finland or Kazakhstan shrinking cities can be found anywhere. This challenges accepted notions about cities and urban development. Urban neighborhoods, cities, and entire regions are being drained of their population and jobs, leaving those who have lost out in the process of transformation from an era of Fordistic industrial production to a society governed by globalized service industries. The dramatic changes in Eastern Germany since 1989, which have led to the vacancy of more than one million apartments and the abandonment of innumerable industrial complexes, as well as social and cultural facilities, are evidence of a more general pattern of our civilization.

While current debate is focused on the phenomenon of ever-growing megalopolises, the parallel zones of shrinkage suffer from the loss of millions of people and rampant unemployment. Demographic trends for many countries will intensify this polarization in decades to come. Shrinking cities contradict the notion, well established since the Industrial revolution, of cities as „boomtowns“ and engines of permanent economic and demographic growth. Shrinking cities provoke us to reconsider entrenched ideas about the face of the European cities and the future of urbanism in general.

As a cultural expression of the society we live in, cities are a platform for cultural production and a significant constituent of our self-perception. The radical transformation caused by their shrinkage hence presents not only an economic and social challenge, but also a cultural one.

The Project

The Shrinking Cities project seeks to propose new perspectives on the current debate in Germany, which is restricted to strategies of demolition of disused housing estates and upgrading existing residential areas. We are asking ourselves:

- What kind of life do people lead in a city shaped by shrinkage and decay? How do they cope with anxiety, loss, and memory?
- What can be done with surplus spaces and buildings, and what about outdated technological, cultural, and social stratagems? How to design decultivation?
- What is the coherence of a city when the continuity of its built environment is in disarray?
- How do people deal with their lives in the absence of traditional forms of paid work?
- What is the relevance of the informal economy, of self-organization, of sub-standard premises?
- How to take advantage of unplanned urban structures in everyday life? Which cultural practices emerge there?

Ein Initiativprojekt der kulturstiftung des bundes in Kooperation mit der Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig, der Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau und der Zeitschrift Arch+, Berlin

Projektleitung/Kurator
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Lässt sich im Ungleichen ein Potential, gar eine Utopie entdecken?

Internationale Untersuchung
Vier lokale interdisziplinäre Teams werden in den Stadtregionen von Detroit (USA), Manchester/Liverpool (Großbritannien), Ivanovo (Russland) und Halle/Leipzig (Deutschland) untersuchen, welche Faktoren Suburbanisierung, in Ivanovo Postsozialismus, während im Großraum Halle/Leipzig mehrere dieser Faktoren zusammenwirken. Die Analyse erfolgt aus verschiedenen Blickwinkeln. Neben einer wissenschaftlichen Beobachtung mittels Kartographie, Statistik, Chronologie und Dialogramm werden Mikrountersuchungen die Erfahrungswege der Bewohner und innovative Alltagspraktiken dokumentieren. Ergänzend zeigen Film, Musik, Kunst und Literatur kulturelle Umgangsformen auf.

Vor-Ort-Projekte
Die Untersuchung wird in einer Ausstellung in Berlin im April 2004 präsentiert. Schrumpfung ist nicht nur Verlust, sondern zugleich Ausgangspunkt für kulturelle Neuerrung. Die Umstrukturierung der Stadtteile bietet die Chance, neue urbane Strategien, künstlerische Konzepte und räumliche Netzwerke zu verwirklichen; zugleich stellt sie bishergige Kulturrelle Werte, Denk- und Handlungswiesen in Frage.

Kunst Leipzig Direktabfrage, Workshops und Stipendien an deutschen Standarden werden offenbar. Zum anderen werden die Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau und die Galerie für Zeitgenössische Künste mit schrumpfenden Städten aufzuziehen. Die besten Perspektiven für den Umgang mit sozialen Krisen in Ostdeutschland konzentrieren werden in Zusammenarbeit mit den lokalen Akteuren in Deutschland realisiert. Auf diese Art entsteht ein Angebot potentieller interventiver Interventionen, die beispielhaft vergeben.

Der Pool der Ideen wird im April 2005 in einer erweiterten Aussstellung in Leipzig gezeigt, die anschließend an weiteren internationalem Standarden zu sehen sein wird.

Is there any potential, even utopia to be discovered in the unplanned?

The project aims to provide new impulses for the management of shrinking cities. Hence the East German experience is to be placed in an international context, and it is sought through the inclusion of diverse artistic and scientific disciplines in the research to find valid proposals for a due course of action.

International Case Study

Four interdisciplinary research teams will compile case studies of urban shrinkage in Detroit (USA), Manchester/Liverpool (UK), Ivanovo (Russia), and Halle/Leipzig (Germany). The teams are to include experts of urban geography, cultural studies, architecture, journalism, and the arts. Each selected location represents specific types of shrinkage: The shrinkage of Detroit has been the consequence of suburbanization, in Manchester and Liverpool de-industrialization has taken place, Ivanovo undergoes a post-socialist period, whereas several of these factors have affected the development in Halle and Leipzig.

The approach of our analysis will take diverse angles. Micro-research will document the experiences of residents at grassroots level, as well as innovative survival tactics; it will be supplemented by analyses using scientific means such as cartography, statistics, chronologies and diagrams. Examples from film, music, art, and literature will document the various cultural responses.

The material will be presented in an exhibition in Berlin in April 2004.

On-site projects

Shrinkage is not only a loss, but also the starting point for cultural innovation. Restructuring these cities offers opportunities for new urban strategies, artistic concepts, and spatial networks. At the same time entrenched cultural values, ideas, and procedures can be reexamined critically.

A part of the project is dedicated to conducting interventions to reappraise urban spaces and redefine their usages. For instance, disused materials may be given a new lease of life by artists, and temporary public spaces could be created or set up by the new media. A second group of works is going to take a more reflexive approach, in order to provide impulses for reframing mental attitudes. These works question standard notions about urbanism, private ownership, migration, dilapidation, and vandalism, and propose utopian projects.

Projects are to be initiated in two ways. In 2004, the German architectural magazine Arch+ will conduct an international open competition. Furthermore, the Bauhaus Foundation, Dessau, and the Gallery for Contemporary Art in Leipzig will directly commission artists, hold workshops, and issue grants for projects at selected locations throughout Germany.

The submissions will provide a pool of ideas for potential interventions

shrinking cities. The best works will finally be chosen for implementation, in co-operation with local agents in East Germany.

Submitted ideas will be shown to the public in an extended exhibition in Leipzig in April 2005. Further international presentations are also planned.

Shrinking Cities

A project commissioned by the **kulturstiftung des bundes** (German Federal Cultural Foundation) in cooperation with the Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig, Bauhaus Foundation Dessau and Arch+ Magazine, Berlin

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Agenda

2003	International research, specialist interdisciplinary workshops and symposiums, implementation of an open work platform under www.shrinkingcities.com
2004	Design workshops, direct commissions, travel grants
2004 February	Competition, Arch+ Magazine
2004 April/May	Exhibition in Berlin, catalogue publication
2005	Implementation
2005 April/May	Extended exhibition in Leipzig, local interventions

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