



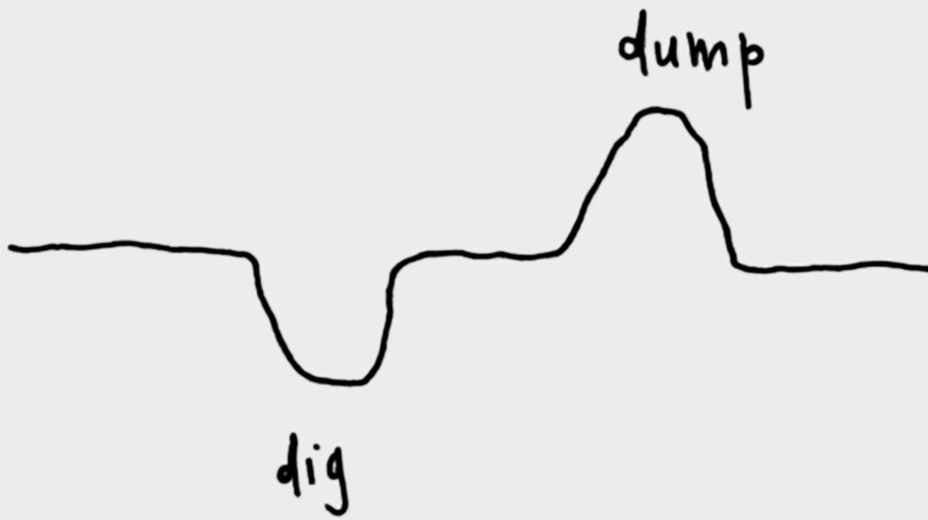
# Productive Landscapes

PDF

Consumed  
Landscapes

## Things Exist:

A fine network of things make our lives livable and comfortable. These things are physical objects that take up space, produce noise and dirt in production and transport, and their dismantling and disposal is difficult and dirty work. Despite promises of 3-D printers and virtual spaces, here we are. Surrounded by objects with stubborn physicality, that we can't do without. The production of these objects is work, work that has been pushed out of collective consciousness by the fact that most people now work in the service industry, and the fact that it's easy to underpay people that don't understand the value of their contribution. But the work has to be done, because we need things. We need food, warmth, we need electricity. For us, it's production or barbarism. And once we are done with the things, we need to put them away - somewhere. Somewhere where it won't bother anyone important.



Däniken:

*Life in the shadows of a nuclear power plant:*

this has been the thematic hook for a number of articles about Däniken. But the cooling towers of energy plants are just one of a myriad of production and disposal sites shoved uncaringly in the in-betweens of Switzerland's so-called population centers. They define the landscape. Factories, farms, water purification plants, warehouses - the vista here is not decorative. Instead it is productive, supplying us with essential goods. Soon, the cooling towers will disappear, when the Gösgen plant is finally turned off after reaching the end of its planned lifespan. In anticipation of this, the council of Däniken has lowered the taxes for businesses, losing quite a lot of money, to attract more businesses to offset the anticipated future loss of taxes.

The result will be that more businesses will move to Däniken. The people living and working there becoming ever-more marginal, the promise of a welfare state only a distant memory. The landscape, mirroring this, will continue to be exploited.



Däniken

## The Object Crisis:

Just as we are on the cusp of leaving this social crisis that the Covid-19 pandemic has been, we are becoming aware of the next crisis. Even now, some objects are not available in shops where before they always were. Raw materials and commodities are missing or becoming much more expensive. The years since the „End of History“ (Fukuyama, 1992) were spent just making things and throwing them away in shorter and shorter cycles. After they were no longer useful the objects were sent to other places to be buried under the earth or stored in strategic large heaps in so-called „developing countries“. Now, our own trash must become a resource again.

# MANIFESTO!

MAINTENANCE ART -- Proposal for an Exhibition

"CARE"

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Mierle Laderman Ukeles

## I. IDEAS:

### A. The Death Instinct and the Life Instinct:

The Death Instinct: separation, individuality, Avant-Garde par excellence; to follow one's own path to death--do your own thing, dynamic change.

The Life Instinct: unification, the eternal return, the perpetuation and MAINTENANCE of the species, survival systems and operations, equilibrium.

### B. Two basic systems: Development and Maintenance. The sourball of every revolution: after the revolution, who's going to pick up the garbage on Monday morning?

Development: pure individual creation; the new; change; progress, advance, excitement, flight or fleeing; **production**

Maintenance: keep the dust off the pure individual creation; preserve the new; sustain the change; protect progress; defend and prolong the advance; renew the excitement; repeat the flight.

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show your work--show it again  
keep the contemporary art museum groovy  
keep the home fires burning

Development systems are partial feedback systems with major room for change.

Maintenance systems are direct feedback systems with little room for alteration.

## Trash as Treasure:

The excess warmth from the nuclear power plant, instead of just worsening the ecosystem of the river as is usually the case, already today supplies the cardboard and paper factories next to it with district heating. This concept of a symbiotic existence should and will be expanded to cover all aspects of production: waste not, want not. Raw materials will increasingly be recovered from things that have already been produced, once, twice, three or more times. We will begin to maintain our surroundings, because we have to. This scarcity mindset will, if we are lucky, save us. This means seeing the places where production takes place with an entirely new lens: re-production.





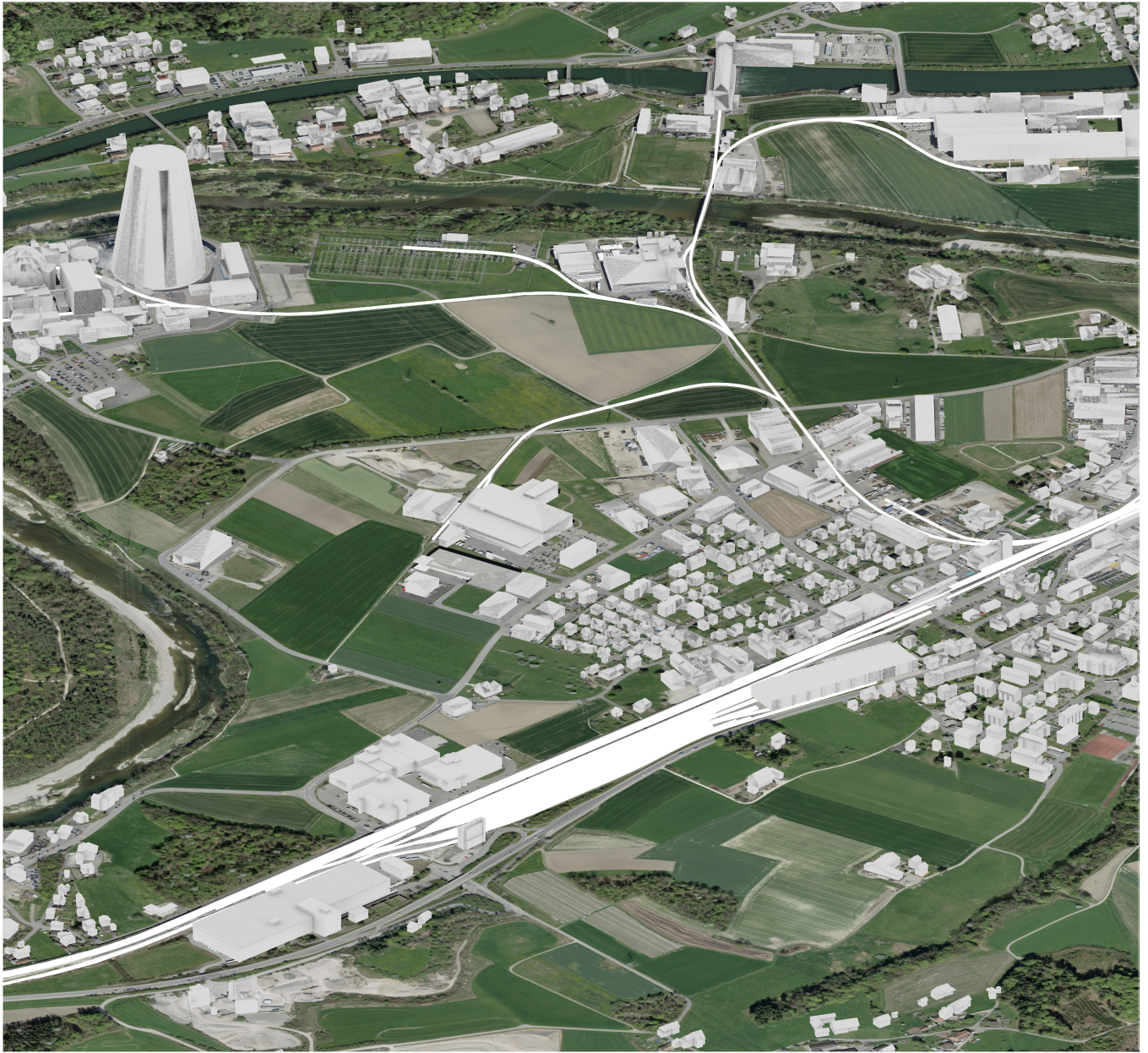
## Maintenance and Social Reproduction:

Re-production is any work that reproduces ourselves such as caring for children, repairing objects, recycling waste or cleaning a floor. Re-productive labor will become part of the industrial landscape, just as the industry will become more re-productive. A day-care center, a canteen and a municipal pool are inserted into the system. The system itself is re-designed to become more circular and self-sustaining. In addition to the district-heating-system, a net of exchange of goods is built between the different industries in the territory. A farm close to the node is extended by a greenhouse that uses the excess warmth, which in turn supplies the canteen with food. The trash that arrives is sorted and distributed to the industries that need it. But Däniken is not an island. It exists in a context and a crucial geographical position which enables it to take up a role in waste distribution and handling.



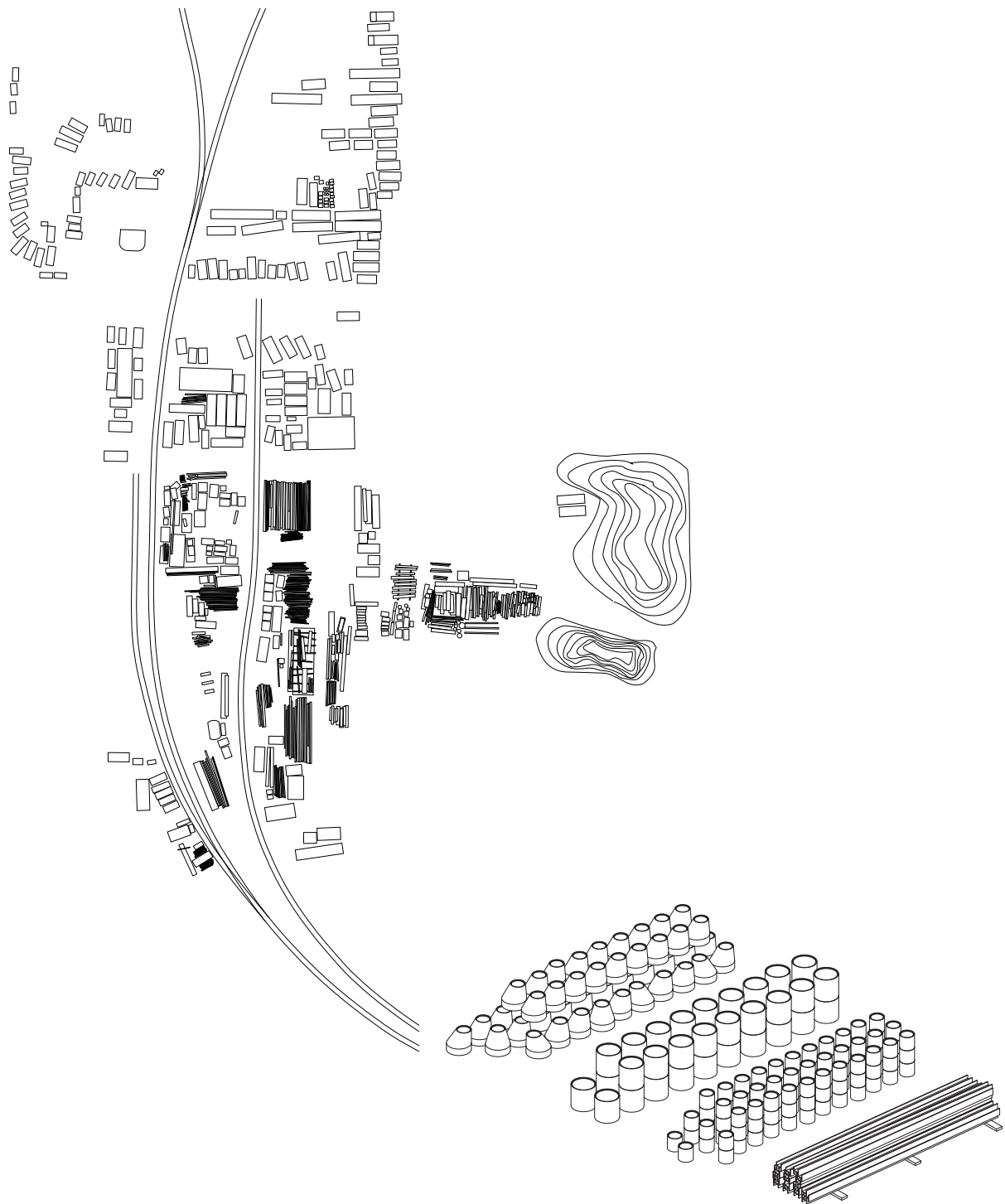
## Territory of Waste:

Däniken is a junction in a Western-european system of objects moving about. It is a strategic node for logistic hubs, because of its location on both the south-north and the east-west axes of both train and road. Its direct neighbour, Härkingen, is home to the largest logistics centres in Switzerland. Through a variety of incentives and policies, goods are being transported increasingly by train, especially over long distances. This makes sense from an environmental standpoint as well as from a traffic-planning standpoint. Collection of waste however is a fine-grained operation, and initial transport to a nearby collection hub will occur mostly on the road. This project proposes a node, where trash arrives on the road, is collected centrally, sorted if necessary, and then finely distributed to a variety of industries close-by that use it as raw materials, or then transported longer distances by train in its new form as resources. This creates a new typology, a space defined by the different types of waste and small tasks of maintenance we are creating.



## Waste Space:

This typology can accomplish the objectives of circulation and re-production. Industries and their undesirable by-products are re-contextualised as a new resource. The territory is used more densely, but is in turn repaired and maintained. Tasks shift closer together and create a kind of nucleus, around which parasitic and symbiotic uses can grow. The people living in the Mittelland of Switzerland subconsciously already know that they are not living in a natural environment. We are all no longer exploiters of a natural landscape but sifters through our own rubbish. This project sees this clearly and proposes a way forward in our new circumstances.



Site as found



Milena Buchwalder