

SOFT MEGASTRUCTURE: FILLING DETROIT'S URBAN VOIDS

By

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ABSTRACT

This research uses the post-war avant-garde trend of Megastructure as a lens into the coupling of science and design that informed the performance and aesthetics of paper architecture in the late fifties and sixties. Though easy to discount as a fashion, Megastructure contained innovative and technically informed concepts of post-disaster redevelopment, architecture for mobility, expendable architectures and cybernetics, that are still relevant today. The application of this research takes on the site of Detroit, MI, as the city that most wholly embraced the ideas of industrialization to the point of its own demise. The design proposal looks at the possibility of shifting Detroit away from monogamy to the automobile, and towards catalyzing an urban agricultural economy.