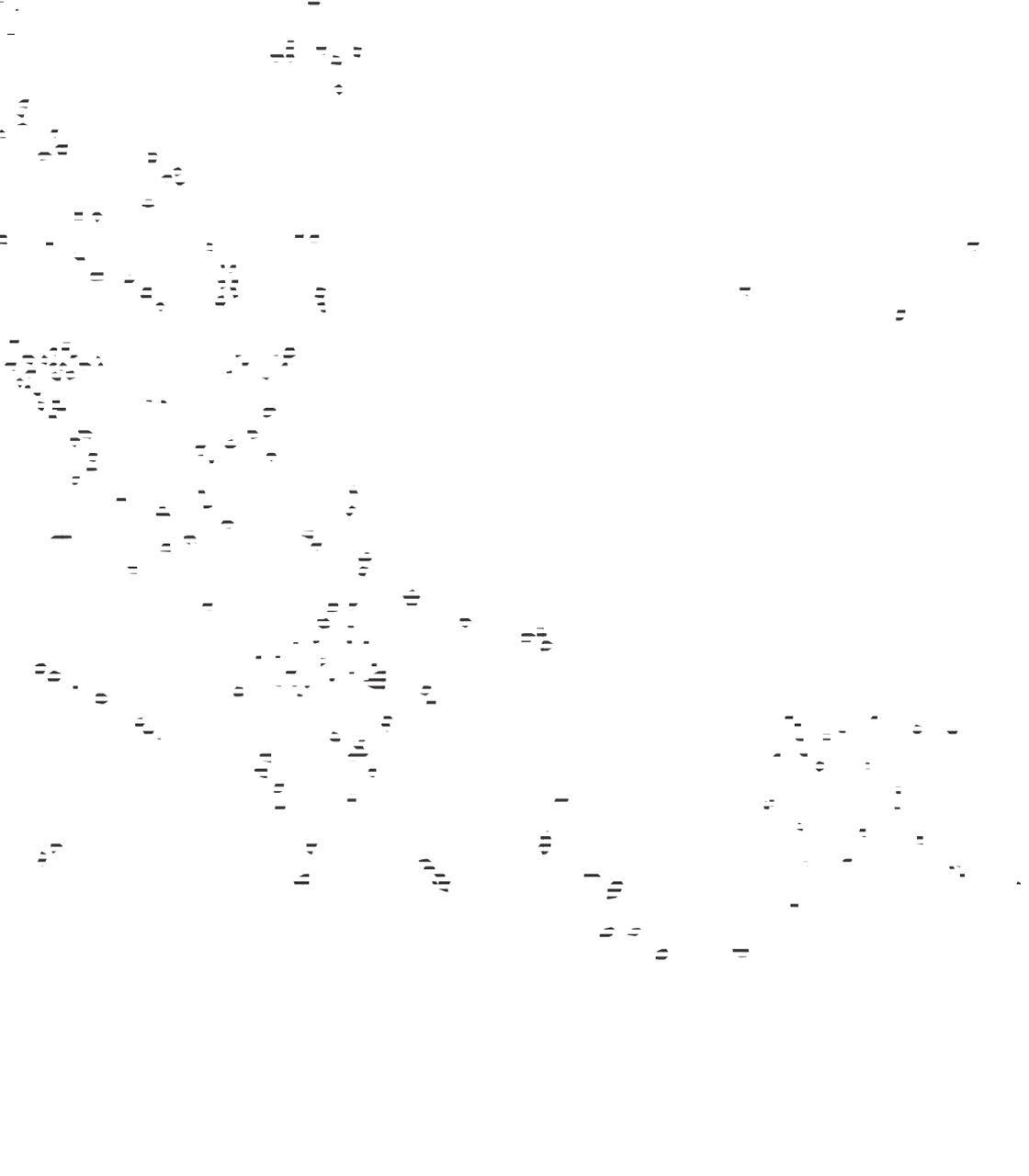


# LIQUID EMPIRE

## How migration might change Europe





# LIQUID EMPIRE

## How migration might change Europe

revised and presented by

Florian Hertweck  
Can Onaner  
Ivonne Weichold

University of Luxembourg  
Faculty of Language and Literature,  
Humanities, Arts and Education

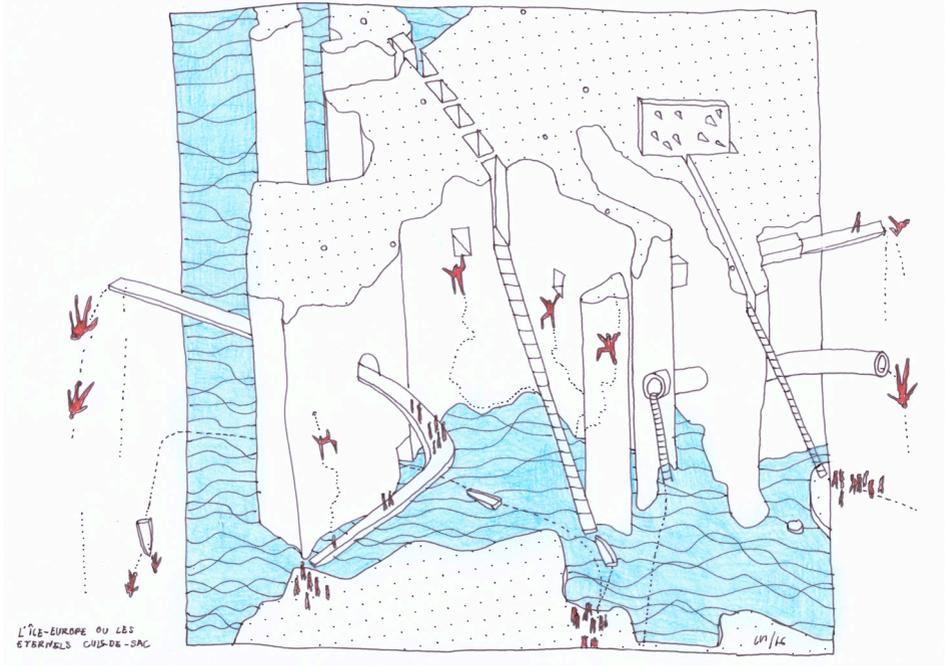
Master in Architecture,  
European Urbanisation, Globalisation

Campus Belval  
11, Porte des Sciences  
L-4366 Esch-sur-Alzette

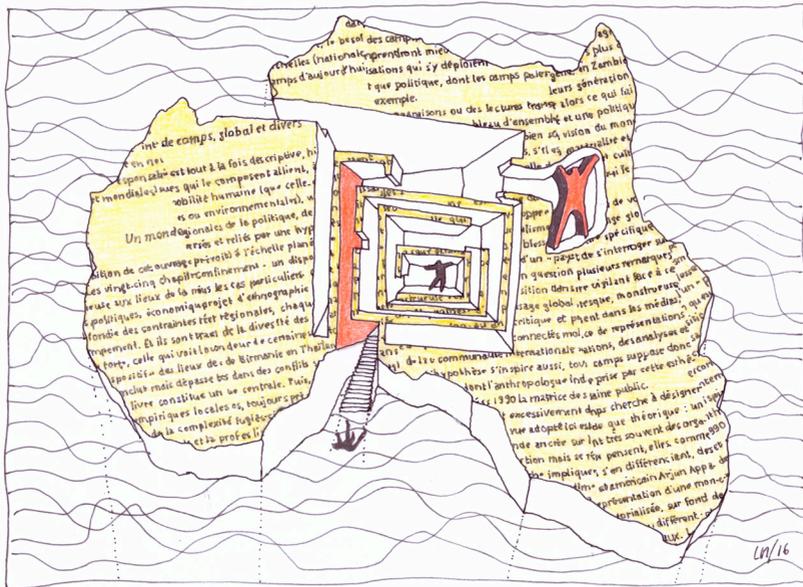
[www.masterarchitecture.lu](http://www.masterarchitecture.lu)  
© University of Luxembourg 2017

Printed in Luxembourg 2017

ISBN 978-2-9199496-0-1



The European island or the eternal dead end ©Luca Merlini



DANS LA FORTRESS - CONTINENT

TEXTES TIRÉS DE "UN MOURE DE CAMPS"  
 SOUS LA DIRECTION DE MICHEL BOJER.

Since Europe has been confronted with a massive wave of expelled emigrants, it has closed its borders and proclaimed itself an introverted continent. The rising populist movements, which have gained increasing support even in the most liberal territories, have pushed the disoriented European governments to question the Schengen agreement of free movement between common ground.

This reactionary tendency, which is representative of the substantial crisis of the idealistically-called European Union, calls for a strong narrative instead of pluralist policy built from smaller steps and pure pragmatism. Great European protagonists have always submitted narratives to the public to prove the limits of the twentieth-century nation-state, especially the idea of a warless continent cemented by a generation conditioned by world wars and state terrorism.

Buffer zones, like those of Turkey, Greece, and southern Italy, immobilize people who have lost their own state. The border is no longer a plain legal line nor an impenetrable wall, but rather a space of its own: autonomous, hanging between two separate worlds, even with an unstable legal status. At another scale, the whole Turkish territory is used today by the European Union as one large buffer zone to enclose the refugees that are not welcomed in the European public sphere. These buffer zones, where the migration flows of banished people are simultaneously concentrated and masked from the international eye, could be the starting point of a new European configuration.

As the flows of emigrants will never stop, and because the European governments will not change their unchristian policies, these buffer zones will continue to become increasingly important in terms of surface and population. Before a general implosion occurs, they will widen in area and invade all borders of the former nation-states that will already be in the process of shrinking. Once Recep Tayyip Erdogan reinforces his agreement with Vladimir Putin and betrays the European pact, the intra-European borders will stiffen, thereby creating peripheral buffer-spaces where

millions of motivated, primarily young, people will be pushed off. Considering this failure of the public European institutions, it is now up to civil society to become a guarantor of human rights for which the Member-States do not assume any responsibility. In this context, the refugees joined by local dissidents will try to concentrate forces in the fight. The social conflicts due to increasing inequality of European societies will thus inevitably find a common ground within the refugees' struggle for a peaceful and better existence.

Supported by this convergence principle, the buffer zones that are located at the intra-European borders will then communicate with each other and constitute a continuous space: a complex and dense network spread over the whole European continent, linked to Africa and the Middle-East similar to Hermann Sörgel's transeuropean fantasies.

This network consisting of refugees, European dissidents, and revolutionists coming from all over the world will become an independent, continuously changing system that will considerably transform the European territories. This liquid empire will either divide the existing nations or re-create larger preexisting entities. What originally looked like an outlying area will gradually become central and free.

The marginal will become standard, transforming the aging and readjusted European States into floating islands in the middle of a mobile ocean in which refugees, dissidents, and so called economic migrants will push back the borders using their vital power.

The archipelago of island-countries will be nothing but ancient relics, nursing homes for exhausted people, recreation parks, and romanticist facilities for mass tourism sporadically invaded by inhabitants of the liquid empire; in parallel they might become vast simulative territories for neo-patriots, racists, and other reactionary people who dream of preceding centuries – enclaves for super capitalists. A postcard ensemble that will eventually become reality like in the Truman Show, composed of:

The most beautiful landscapes of France, Spain, Portugal and North Italy which would form a sanatorium of last pleasures, with picturesque infrastructures and preindustrial houses designed by Leon Krier for right-wing pensioners, for whom the vague idea of 'patrimoine' becomes finally tangible in the autumn of their lives. The Island of Neoliberalism, made from the remains of the so called Great Britain, where stockbrokers and hedge fund managers will be concentrated to make business 24 hours a day and seven days a week with fake money and a fake news channel to constantly alter the market graph. These gamblers will be able to celebrate an unfragmented form of capitalism.

Bavaria, which will finally become an autonomous but boring state, where fans of both technology and folklore can live together in harmony.

Heidiland, the residual space of the Swiss hypercity, where naturalists will be able to indulge their alpine fantasy in a perfectly shaped landscape.

Little Prussia, where supporters of the AfD, Front National, Partij voor de Vrijheid, FPÖ, and other right extremist parties, will be able to live their dream in a perfectly homogenous state with strong frontiers.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire revisited, where so called Reichsbürger and other outsiders nostalgic of monarchies could replay carnival events daily, like enthronement or jubilees.

Czechoslovakia will again unify the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where admirers of state-socialism will be able to simulate a classless society accompanied by empty supermarkets and grotesque military parades.

Titoland, which will confront the most radical and former nationalist militants of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs in a borderless island.

Popeland, encircled by a solid wall, which will unify the most radical religious freaks from all over the world, who will exterminate themselves in the most brutal massacre in history. As they are not allowed to reproduce themselves, this island

will eventually become a deserted enclave and turn into a vital biotope.

Russia will resist the liquid empire by building walls all around its European borders and find itself completely isolated from the continent.

The Turkish state will be overwhelmed by the liquid empire. This new empire will respond to the desire of half of the population to escape from Erdogan's hands and be part of a new community – maybe a more intelligent way of integrating the European Union, while the other half might see the opportunities of reviving the Ottoman Empire and its nomadic origins.

The archipelago of these islands will be enclosed by the liquid empire which will become global. After the insurrection, its inhabitants will experience a new ideology, neither capitalism nor state-socialism, neither liberalism nor dirigisme – but the ideology of constant revolution, where Dionysian primitivism meets advanced technologies of communication, production, and consumption. It will be a place where new social institutions are brought to life only with the desire to dismantle them, where new monuments are erected only with the intent of destructing them. The fear of the end of the world, the tendencies towards self-conservation and ecological subsistence, will be replaced with a radical strategy of waste, where the hegemonic struggles move towards sacrifice and gift, rather than accumulation and conservation.

In this liquid empire, there will be no emperor but a multiplicity of nomad and sedentary tributes who experience the endless struggle of their hegemonic tendencies. The tributes willing to gain permanent power over the others, and the ones who don't have the vital energy for the continuous struggle, will be pushed towards the remaining historical islands where they can re-experience the pleasures of the old masters and servants game.

# REFUGEE CAMPS



**REFUGEE CAMPS MERGED**



FORMATION OF REFUGEE CORRIDORS



# LIQUID EMPIRE FRAMING AN ARCHIPELAGO OF NATION-STATES

1. Sanatorium of Last Pleasures
2. Island of Neoliberalism
3. Little Prussia
4. Bavaria
5. Heidiland
6. Popeland
7. Austro-Hungarian Empire
8. Titoland



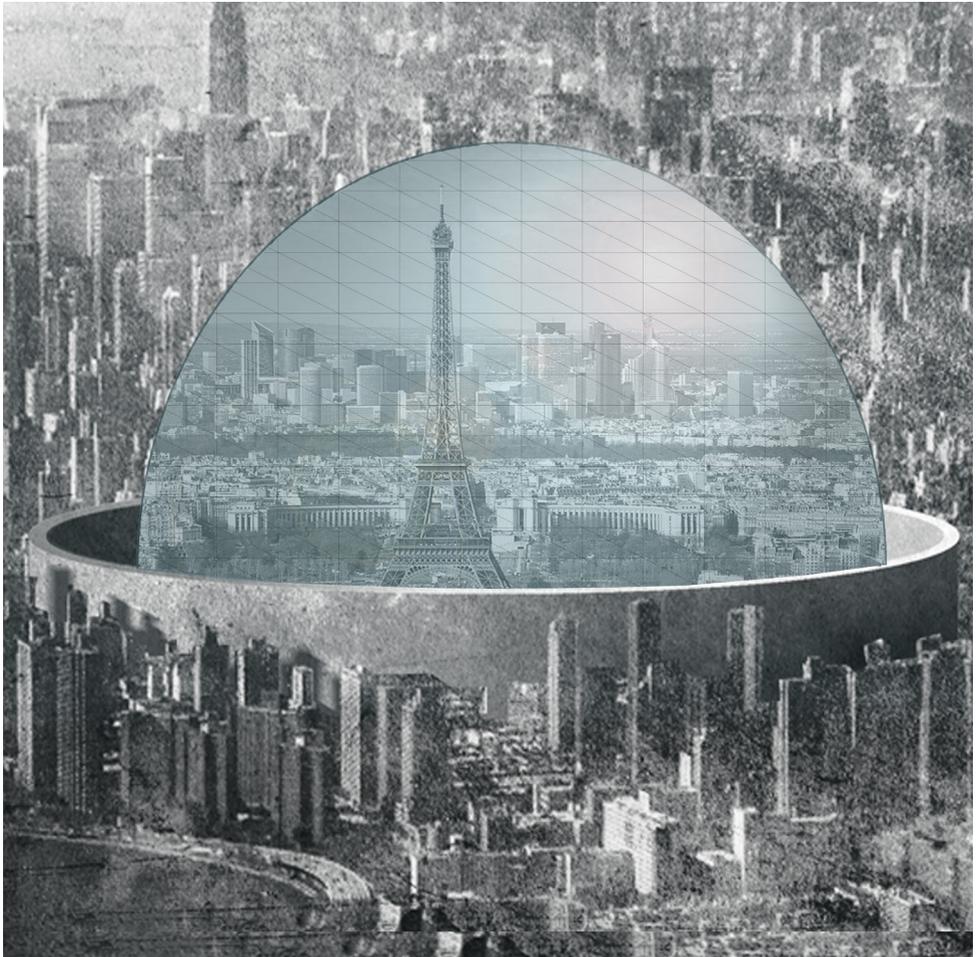
# LIQUID EMPIRE VS HEIDILAND





# LIQUID EMPIRE VS PARIS





## LIQUID EMPIRE VS THE TURKISH STATE





## **PARTICIPANTS**

This publication summarises the results of the Schengen Summerschool "Architecture and Migration" workshop held in Schengen 2016.

### *Guest Critics & Studio Tutors*

**Matthias Armengaud**  
Architect, AWP, Paris  
Professor Université Fribourg

**Véronique Patteeuw**  
Architect, critic, editor, Brussels  
Associate professor ENSAP Lille

**Arno Brandhuber**  
brandhuber+, Berlin  
Professor Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg

**Aglée Degros**  
Urban planner, Artgineering, Brussels  
Co-Organiser of "Favorite(n) Arrival City" in Vienna

**Florian Hertweck**  
Architect, Hertweck Devernois Architectes, Versailles  
Professor University of Luxembourg

**Philippe Nathan**  
Architect, 2001, Luxembourg

**Ahn-Linh NGO**  
Architect, author, editor of ARCH+, Berlin

**Can Onaner**  
Architect, DOCUMENTS, Paris  
Associate Professor ENSA Paris-Malaquais

**Eveline Dürr**  
Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
LMU Munich

**Shahram Aqaajani**  
Architect, Metaform, Luxembourg

**Carole Schmit**  
Architect, Public Building Administration, Luxembourg  
Guest Professor University of Luxembourg

**Friedrich Bokern**  
Political Scientist, Founder and Director Relief &  
Reconciliation for Syria Beirut

**Birte Nienaber**  
Associate Professor of Political Geography  
University of Luxembourg  
Coordinator European Migration Network

**Stefan Bendiks**  
Urban planner, Artgineering, Brussels,  
Co-Organiser of "Favorite(n) Arrival City" in Vienna

**François Valentiny**  
Architect, Valentiny hvp architects, Luxembourg  
Professor Beijing De Tao Shanghai

### *Keynote Lecturer*

**Saskia Sassen**  
Sociologist  
Professor Columbia University

### *Students*

Alaa Alquirashi, Umm al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia  
Alexandra Nicoleta Badea, University of Westminster  
Raffaella Betz, TU Berlin, Campus El Gouna  
Chloé Coninckx, EPFL, Lausanne  
Joséphine Delignies, ENSA, Versailles  
Peter Elverum, University of Westminster  
Hashem Ezzwai, AASTMT, Alexandria  
Armin Fuchs, Bauhaus University Weimar  
Sandra Jarrige, ENSA, Nancy  
Beatriz Klettner Soler, ETH Zürich  
Sacha Lorand, ENSA, Versailles  
Federica Mambrini, Sapienza University of Rome  
Natacha Roth, FH Trier  
Anna Valentiny, TU Wien  
Lola Valerius, KADK, Copenhagen  
Diana Zambelloni, Sapienza University of Rome





