

Network City
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Several new waves of network technology are currently transforming the formal structures and functional organizations of cities, and establishing new conditions for the production of architecture. The first of these is digital telecommunication networking, particularly the Internet; this, like previous forms of network infrastructure, is selectively loosening established place-to-place relationships.

The result is fragmentation of traditional building types and urban patterns, and the emergence of some interesting and important new patterns. The second is the proliferation of miniaturized, inexpensive, embedded electronics; this demolishes the distinction between physical space and cyberspace, creating a new hybrid with extraordinary architectural potential. The third is the growth of portable, ubiquitous wireless technology; this destabilizes traditional people-to-place and people-to-people relationships, and creates the possibility of more flexible, nomadic use of architectural and urban space. In this talk, I shall explore these developments, and suggest some related urban strategies for the future.