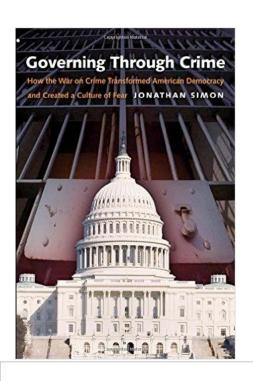
Alternative Futures of Justice and Architectural Design





Academy of Architecture for Justice Conference

November 2-5, 2016 | Honolulu, Hawaii









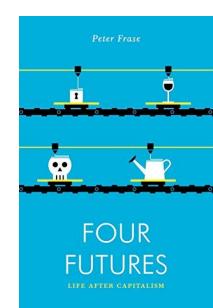
I will speak on two themes today.



One is about the futures, and futures studies.

I will assert that while it is impossible to predict the future,

it is possible and necessary to forecast and consider the consequences of four generic alternative images of the futures.



My second theme is that Structure Matters.

Since many of you are architects who create structures,

I will speak about that first,

and then briefly consider some consequences
in four alternative futures for law, justice, and architecture.





Buildings speak.





And sometimes people speak back to them.



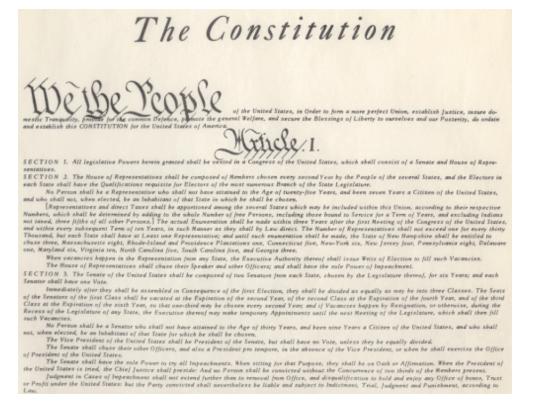
But more typically, as Winston Churchill said,





He was referring to the way the design of the Houses of Parliament influences political debate and policy.

He might also have cited the example of the two Houses of Congress in the United States.



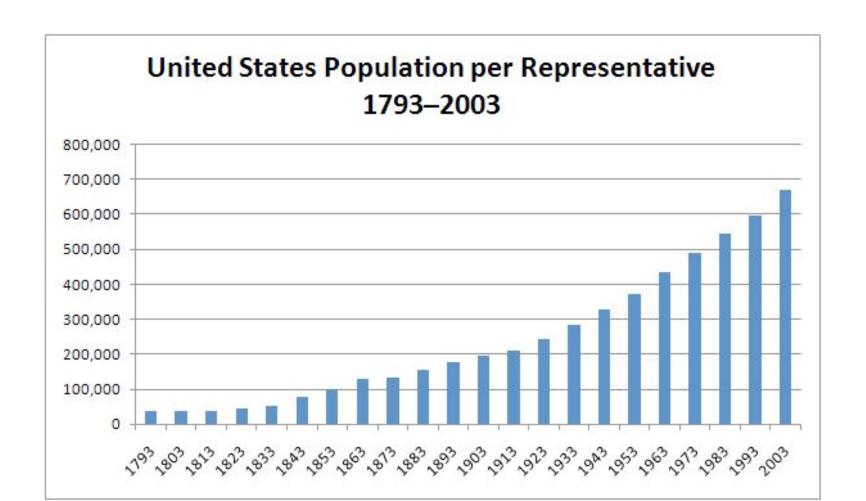
The reason the Senate has 100 Senators, is because there are 50 states in the Union and the US Constitution says that each state shall have two senators.

The reason the House of Representatives has 435 members

Acticle 1, Section 2

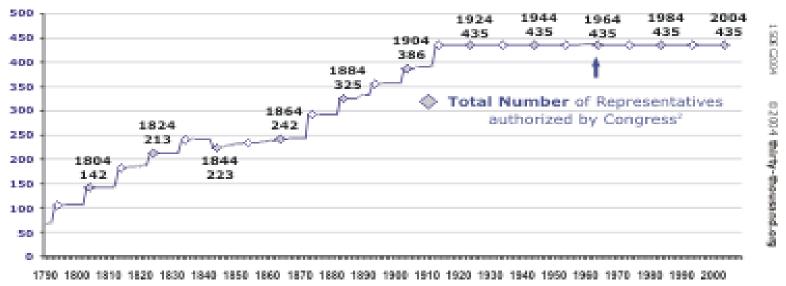
Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed these fifths of all other Persons. The actual

is because the US Constitution requires that each of the states of the Union have representatives apportioned in accordance with its population. For most of its history,
as the population of the US grew,
Congress added more representatives
after every census.



However, once the number of representatives hit 435, there was no more space in the hall to add more desks, and so there could be no more representatives!

Size of U. S. House of Representatives 1790 to 2004



That limit was reached 100 years ago, following the US Census of 1910, when the US population was slightly less that 100 million.

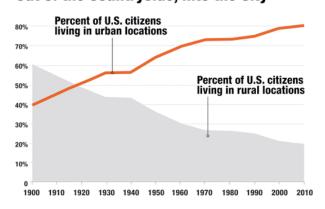
Now it is over 320 million and growing.

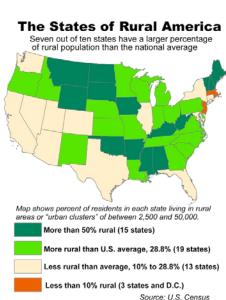
Reapportioning 435 members among that growing population means that

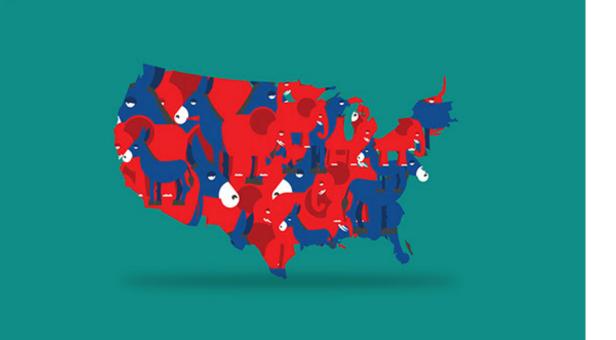
small, rural, conservative areas are significantly overrepresented in both Houses,

while large, urban, liberal areas are consistently underrepresented.

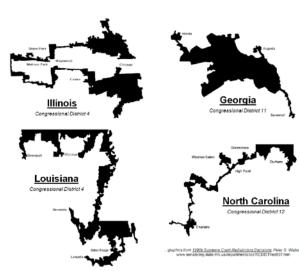
Out of the Countryside, Into the City

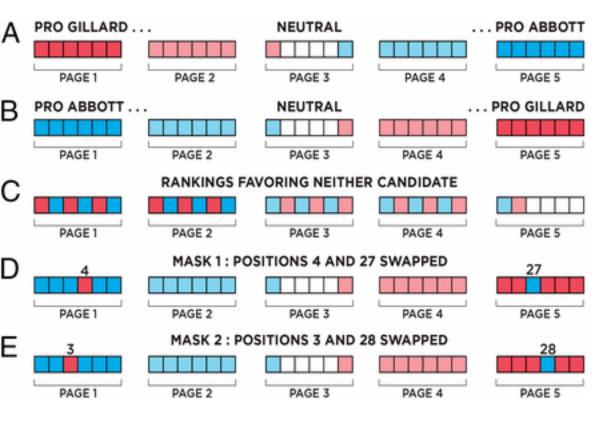






Extensive gerrymandering of electoral districts makes misrepresentation even worse.





And digital gerrymandering by the search engine manipulation effect might increase misrepresentation further. Does that matter?

Just ask Al Gore



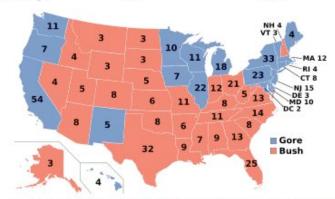
United States presidential election, 2000

November 7, 2000





Nominee	George W. Bush	Al Gore
Party	Republican	Democratic
Home state	Texas	Tennessee
Running mate	Dick Cheney	Joe Lieberman
Electoral vote	271	266
States carried	30	20+DC
Popular vote	50,456,002	50,999,897
Percentage	47.9%	48.4%



Presidential election results map. Red denotes states won by Bush/Cheney(30), Blue denotes those won by Gore/Lieberman(20+DC).

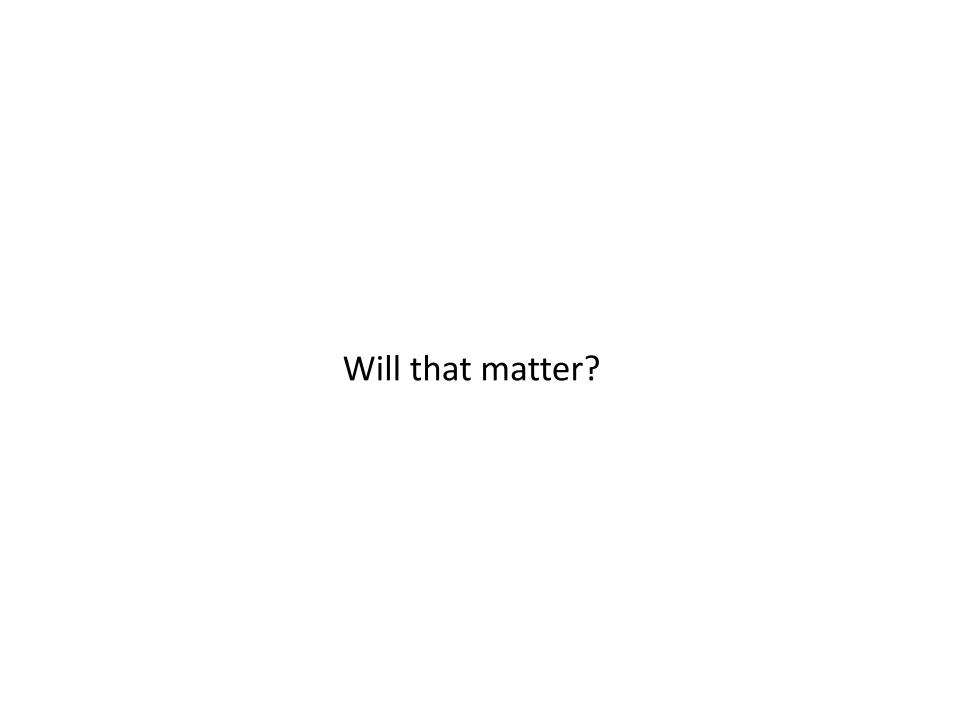
Incumbent President

President-Elect

Bill Clinton

George W. Bush Republican

Democratic



We'll know in four days.



Joe Smith John Citizen Jane Doe

Mary Hill

Similarly, the reason we have a two-party system and only a two-party system in the US,

Fred Rubble

though third or fourth parties may rise and fall on occasion,

is because the US constitution mandates the "single-member district system" whereby people in an electoral district must choose only one person to represent them.

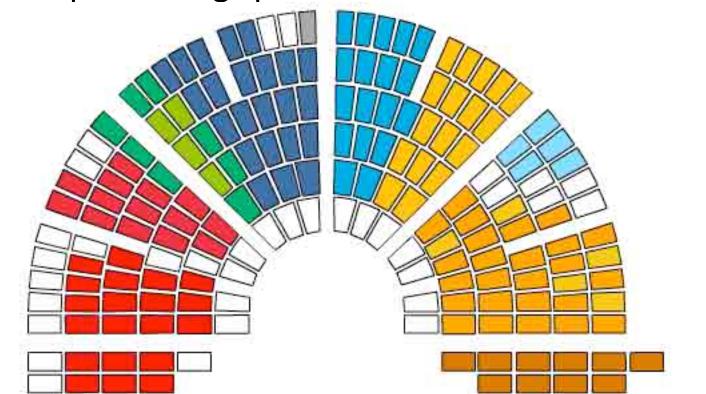
But how can one person represent the diversity of Americans?

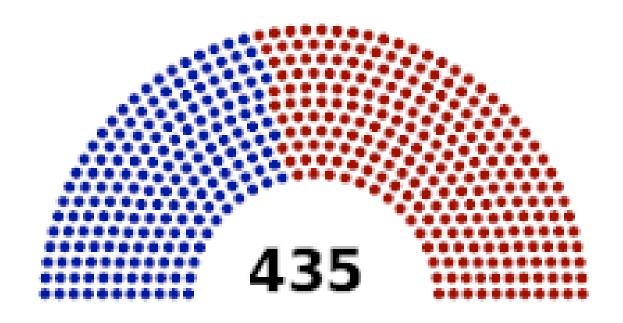


They can't and they don't.

This situation contrasts with most countries of the world that utilize multi-member districts, so that there can be 5, 10, 100 representatives from a single electoral district,

thus spawning many political parties, each representing specific interests in the district.





So, structure matters.



Architects have inordinately more influence over the future than most other people do.





You each have far more influence over the future than I do,

even though I have been a professional futurist engaged in policy-oriented futures studies for almost half a century.









Your buildings are built to last,

and to last,

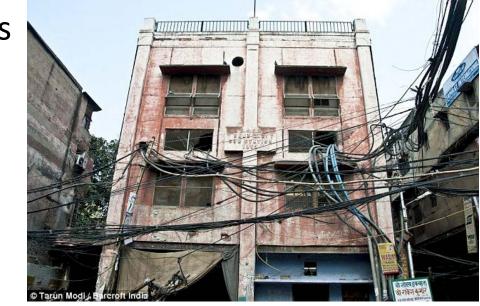


and to last.



People who use those buildings come and go,

while new technologies incessantly emerge, trying to replace the old technologies entombed in old buildings.





As one consequence, many of us are forced to live out our lives in structures designed for times quite unlike the present—

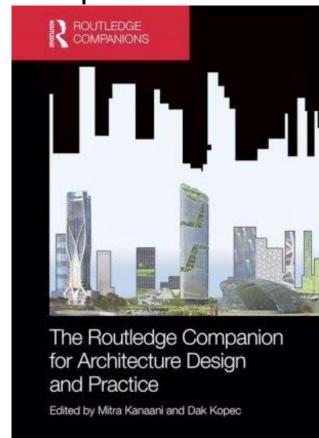


structures designed for the most part without any serious thought having been given to what future worlds might be like, and whether the structures of the past might still be functional for future generations.

And you don't seem to care.



I recently contributed a chapter,
titled "Alternative Futures in Architecture,"
to The Routledge Companion
for Architecture Design and Practice:
Established and Emerging Trends,
edited by Mitra Kanaani and Dak Kopec.



I surveyed scores of books and articles written recently by architects about the field of architecture;

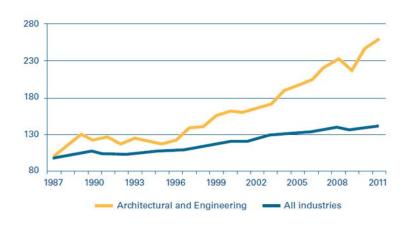
I examined 249 DArch theses written by students of the School of Architecture of the University of Hawaii between 1999 and 2013;

and I analyzed the content of the thirty-four chapters written by the forty-five architects who contributed to the *Companion* itself.

Very few architects showed the slightest interest in the future,

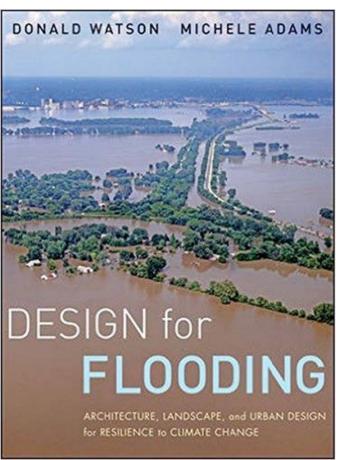
though almost all of them wrote as though the trends, processes, and technologies of the past 200 years of continued economic growth were going to march unchanged into the future,

carrying current architectural practices triumphantly forward with them.

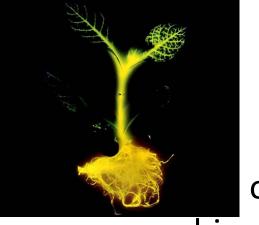


Only a handful of architects expressed any concern about global warming, climate change, global population growth and local population decline, energy, water, or food shortages, political instability,

on the one hand,









or of the high tech glories that
ubiquitous electronic virtuality, robotics,
artificial intelligence, biotechnologies,
new interactive materials, and
space settlements,
might bring to the world and their profession,



on the other hand.



But why should architects care about the futures?

No one from the future has ever offered you money for erecting something fit for them.

You have always constructed buildings that serve the interest of certain people in the present.

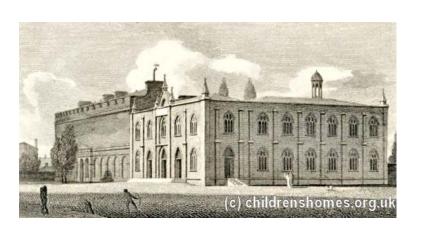


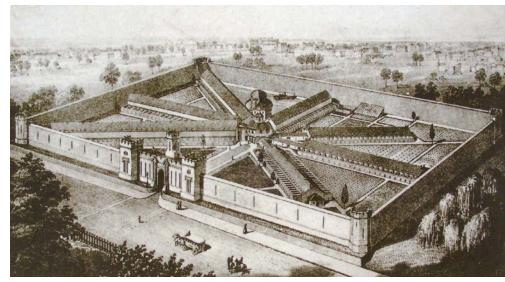




Moreover, some of you are very special architects.

You build court houses, prisons, or reformatories, or torture chambers, or places where penitents learn to repent their crimes.



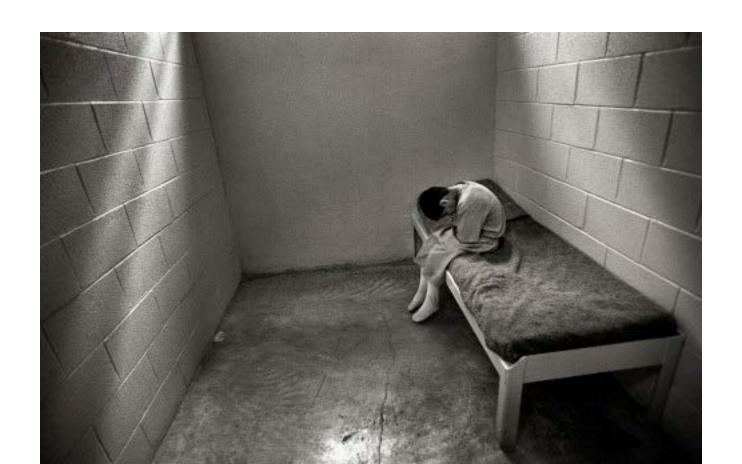


Styles in reform and punishment have cycled back and forth in the United States over the years since its founding from harsh punishment based on ridicule and physical assault;



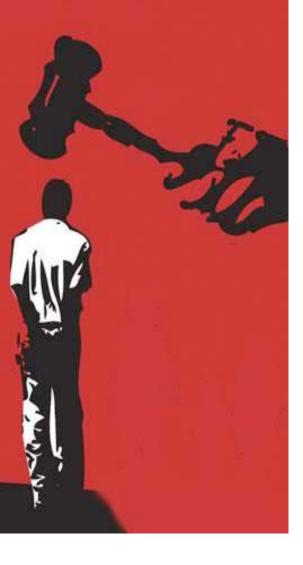


to opportunities for individual, private reflection;



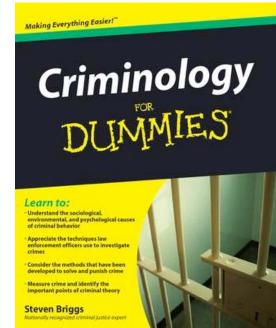


to programs for reform and improvement;



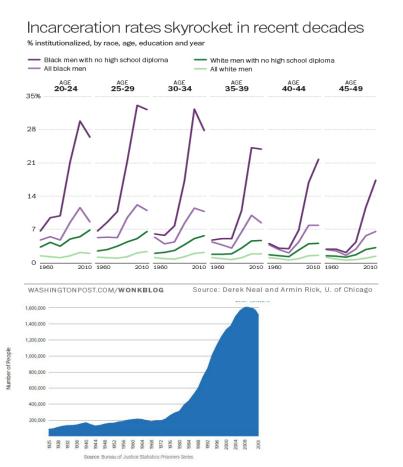
to isolation, punishment, cruelty, and neglect, called "just deserts".





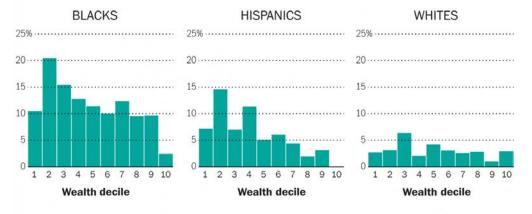
As a consequence America leads the industrial world in the number and percentage of our population in prison,

and especially of the number of young men of color in long-time confinement.



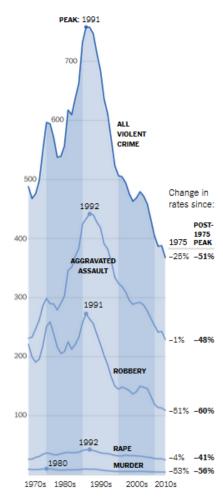
Rich black kids are more likely to go to prison than poor white kids

Share of people born between 1957 and 1965 who eventually went to prison or jail, by how much wealth they had as of 1985, when they were between 20 and 28 years old

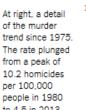


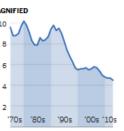
A Safer Country

Annual rate of violent crimes per 100,000 people, 1975–2013.



THE MURDER RATE*. MAGNIFIED





For a while recently, it looked like we were on the wave to real reform,

reducing the numbers
of Americans incarcerated
for long periods of time
for relatively minor infractions—

and of certain ethnic and economic groups being far more numerous in prisons than either chance or fairness would allow.

*Includes non-negligent manslaughter.

Source: Department of Justice

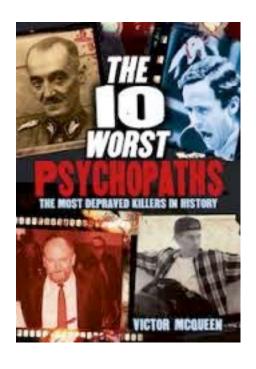
I hope we can work together this year on bipartisan priorities like criminal justice reform.

-PRESIDENT OBAMA January 12, 2016



A bipartisan movement towards transformation of our criminal justice system emerged.

It was possible to imagine and plan for structures that reserved incarceration for the few truly violent people,





while nurturing the education and reintegration into society
of the huge numbers of youths





who engage in the kind of antisocial behavior

that biology imposes on all of us for a while.

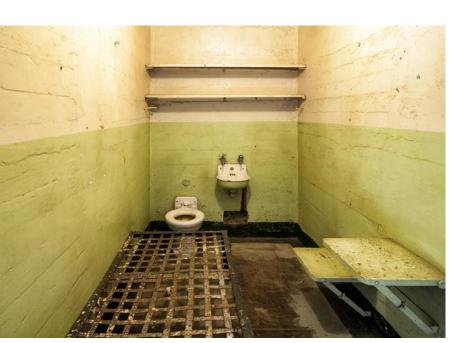




But events over the last few months, both rhetorical and real, seem to have rekindled enthusiasm for incarceration, exclusion, humiliation, and punishment once again.

The shape and style of our buildings reflects the moods and temperament of the people who pay for them to be built.

Those moods change over time, sometimes without any apparent reason other than the desire to build something new.





Structure matters not only in terms of how courts and prisons reflect and reinforce our notions about how to deal with crime and criminals,



The Iberians are believed to have been originally an African race, who thousands of years ago spread themselves through Spain over Western Europe. Their remains are found in the barrows, or burying places, in sundry parts of these countries. The skulls are of low prognathous type. They came to Ireland, and mixed with the natives of the South and West, who themselves are supposed to have been of low type and descendants of savages of the Stone Age, who, in consequence of isolation from the rest of the world, had never been out competed in the healthy struggle of life, and thus made way, according to the laws of nature, for superior races.

but also who criminals are and the crimes they commit.



When I was young, consumer goods were scarce and many people poor.

Commercial stores carefully protected their scarce offerings behind barriers of bars and counters,

displaying them so they could be seen, but not touched.





Acquiring those scarce goods was difficult.

You needed to have cash in hand that covered the asking price.

That was called "cash and carry" — if you have the cash, you can carry the purchase away.



If you didn't have enough money to pay for the product entirely, then there was an option called "lay-away".



You put a bit of money down, and the scarce product was removed from the display case and "laid away" in a back room.





You came in each week and paid a bit more money until you had paid the entire cost.

Then you could proudly carry the product away.

Shops experienced relatively little crime at that time—almost no theft, little shoplifting.

Of course you might have to rob someone to come up with the money you needed, but in-store crimes were rare—

because of their design.



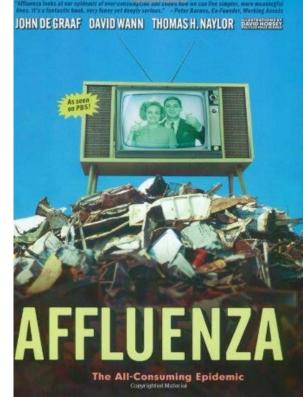
The situation is entirely different now.

Consumer goods are abundant and cheap. Indeed, they are far too abundant.

The challenge now is how to get rid of all that abundant crap.







One way is by modern advertising which seduces people into craving products that they don't really want or need,

but which the manufacturers and retailers need to get rid of.









But that is still a problem if you don't have the cash in hand.

And so commerce almost came to a halt





until the revolving credit card was invented

which somehow had ever-expanding credit limits.

Once you reached your limit, they didn't take your card away;

they raised your credit limit and gave you more cards so you could spread your debts far and wide—





Anything to move the merchandise out and keep the profits flowing in.



But maybe you live in the wrong zip code or hang out with the wrong people even to have a credit card.

In that case,

you must resort to theft, to shoplifting.



And so stores were redesigned so that the super-abundant goods are piled openly on tables,

with the products that are most abundant, cheap, and least popular placed near the doors—

which are often open and spacious.



You are expected to steal those goods,

so that the manufactures can keep producing new goods,

so that the goods in the warehouses can be moved to the stores,

so that the goods in the stores can be taken away one way or another,

so that other goods waiting in the warehouses can move to the stores,

so that the goods spewing out of the factories can move to the warehouses....

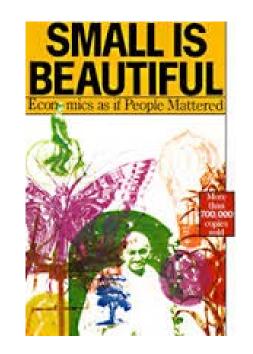


As someone said long ago,

shoplifting is the poor person's credit card.

Structure matters,

and commercial stores were redesigned so we would move from being conserver societies based on scarcity, re-use, and thrift



and become
consumer societies
based on advertising, debt, waste,
and theft.



Theft is OK, because that means we can keep the economy growing by hiring more



security guards,
police,
lawyers,
judges,
prison guards,
and parole officers,

orcement equipment,

with ever fancier surveillance and enforcement equipment,









all of which requires more court houses and larger prisons,

thus keeping you happily employed as well.





Economists don't care HOW the economy grows. It is just that it must keep growing.

Theft contributes more to a growing economy than Thrift.





This is only one example of many showing how we have created a society that actively produces crime, criminals, and prisons,

and that we can—and eventually must—create a society that is not so massively criminogenic.



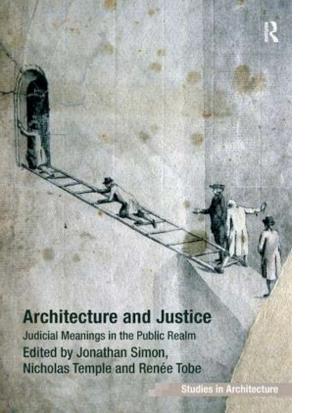


Reducing reasons for crime and opportunities for crime

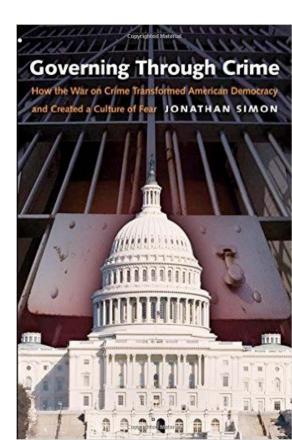
by structural design

should become a high priority for

Architects for Justice,



if it is not already.



It is well-known—or at least widely-argued—that the housing, commercial, and transportation structures of our big cities cause criminal behavior.







Small towns and villages once were comparatively crime-free in part because of the way houses, shops and streets were laid out so as to provide maximum informal surveillance and minimum opportunities for crime.



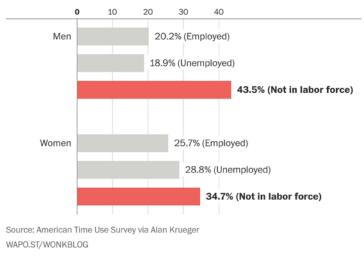


But that too has changed since the economic structures of global neoliberalism, on the one hand, and the rapid rise of robotics, artificial intelligence, and mobile autonomous entities, on the other, have destroyed the economic base

of most small communities,



Percent of people who took painkillers the day before, by employment status



while the rise of ever more potent drugs
have given unemployed people
profound incentives and opportunites for behavior
that is treated as a crime,
and not as a structural design challenge.



"Crime" is a socially-determined category.

And what is crime in one time and place may not be crime in another.

Crime could be vastly reduced by decriminalizing many things that are declared crime now—such as recreational drug use, or suicide, especially elderly suicide.









At the same time, new crimes have arisen.

Not only should the CEOs of Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Deutsche Bank, etc. not go free with disgusting golden parachutes,







but also most people in prison now should be released,

and their places taken by those financial wizards who destroyed the lives of billions while grotesquely enriching themselves.





Moreover some actions that were not even possible in the past should be criminalized now that they are possible.

For example, denying and actively contributing to global warming and sea-level rise might be criminalized.

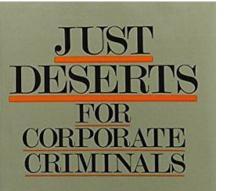


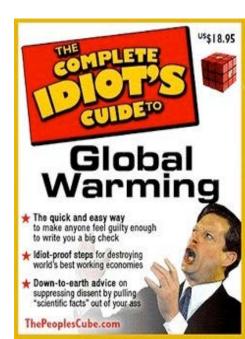


Indeed, if there is a good case to be made for capital punishment, and not just life imprisonment,

it is for the climate change-denier captains of industry and finance who are destroying the world of future generations while prospering so well now,

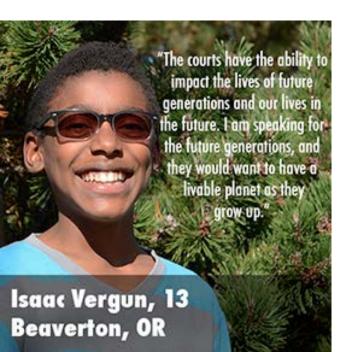
some people say.





Some jurisdictions have already given representatives of future generations the right not only to participate in policy-making that may impact people to come more adversely than it impacts living people now,

but also to sue or bring criminal charges against the perpetrators of such acts.





CRIMES AGAINST FUTURE GENERATIONS

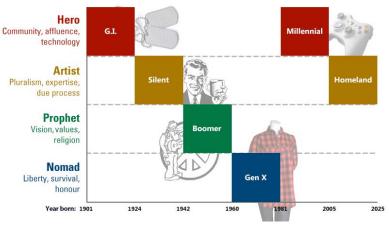


Balancing the rights of future generations with those of present generations should become an integral part of all systems of justice.

I hope you will not be a defendant in such a case because you ignored the rights of future generations in your practice of architecture.



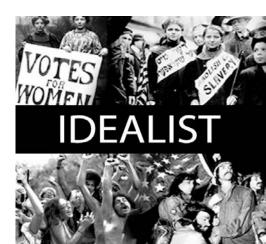
Howe/Strauss Generational Archetypes and Generations





Demographically,
the old "can-do" GI age-cohort
that ruled the second half of the 20th Century
is long gone,
while the Boomers, their main rivals

and the largest age-cohort in world history, are retiring rapidly.







Filling their places are the few, pitiful Gen Xers and the numerous, super-competent, group-oriented

Millennials.



And yet they are not "filling their places" because the jobs are vanishing with the Boomers.

Millennials are either entrepreneurs



in the gig economy,



or permanently under-employed,



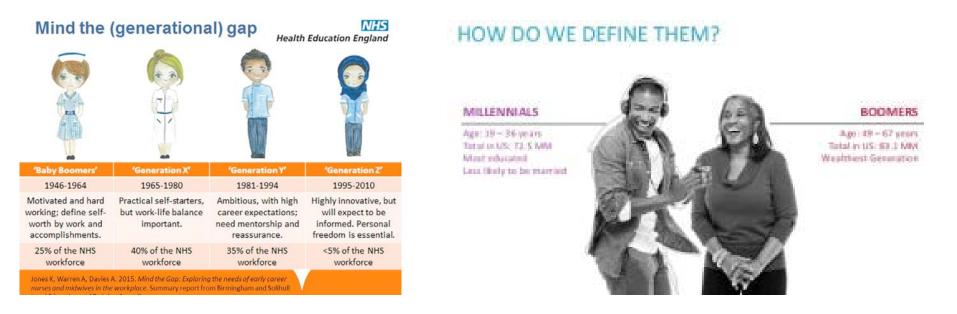
or alternatively both,

while about to emerge
are the as-yet undefined
Adaptive cohort
Strauss and Howe labeled "Cybers",
now often called "Homelanders".



But the point is:

When one dominant age-cohort leaves power and another moves in, the world changes.



A big change is unfolding now.

Now, let's consider how technology might continue to change justice architecture.









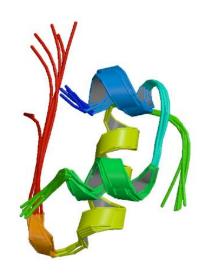
3-D printing and robotic assemblies are already realities.







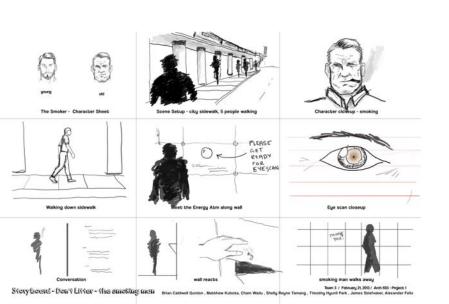
It is likely that building materials will continue to evolve from rigid, "permanent" structures of steel and concrete, to fluid, organic forms of bionanosynthetic plasticity.

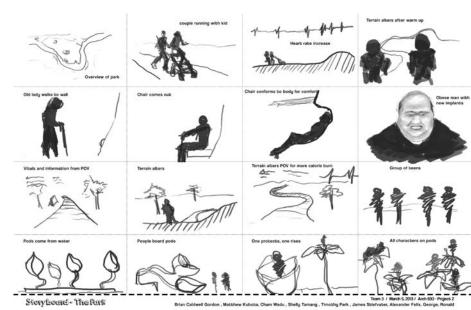






These living, smart materials can be used instead of laws, human police, judges, and prisons interactively to "nudge" people into preferred modes of behavior and away from undesirable modes.







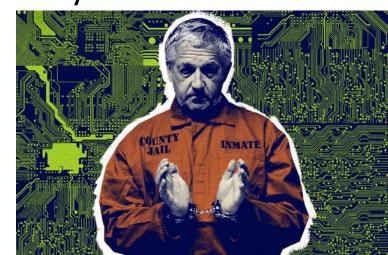
However, virtual realities are replacing physical realities everywhere.

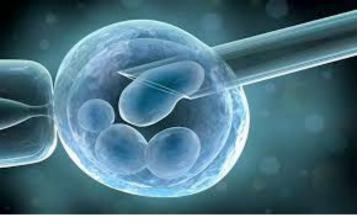






Policing and arrests by humans,
with trials and decisions made in physical courthouses
before human judges,
and incarceration in physical prisons
may be vanishing away.



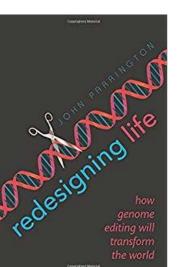




Genetic engineering suggests the possibility of designing people who are simply incapable of acting violently,

and/or who can be rebooted to normalcy

if they somehow do become violent



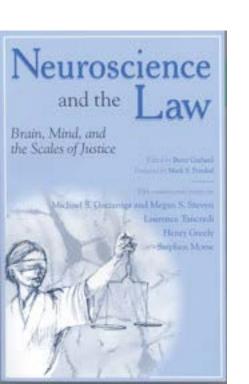


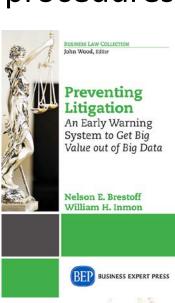
Neuroscience

—our knowledge of the role of the brain in all of this—

is advancing with impressive speed and the possibility of

anticipatory prevention procedures is looming.





Models of the Mind:

How Neuroscience, Psychology and the Law Collide



Michael S. Pardo & Dennis Patterson

Minds, Brains,

The Conceptual Foundations of Law and Neuroscience

and Law

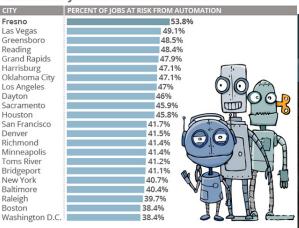






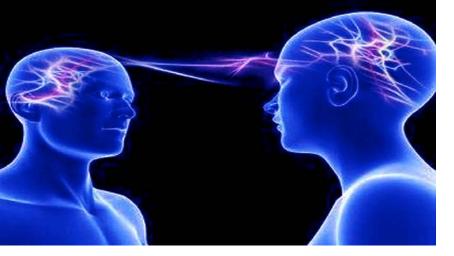
Clearly robots, artilects and transhumans are challenging and replacing humans in many activities, and perhaps soon, in all aspects of life.

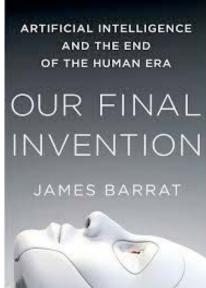
Cities with jobs at risk from robots



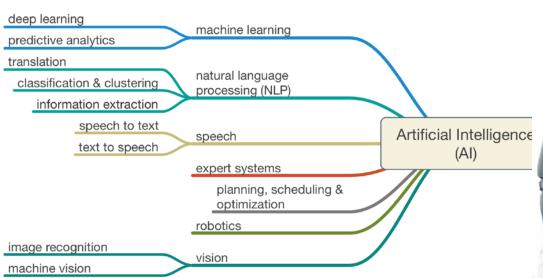








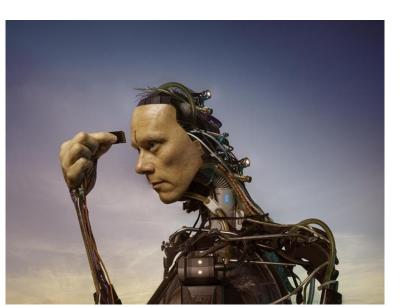
Law, courts, and prisons are among the institutions of the present most easily rendered obsolete by artificial intelligence and neuroscience.





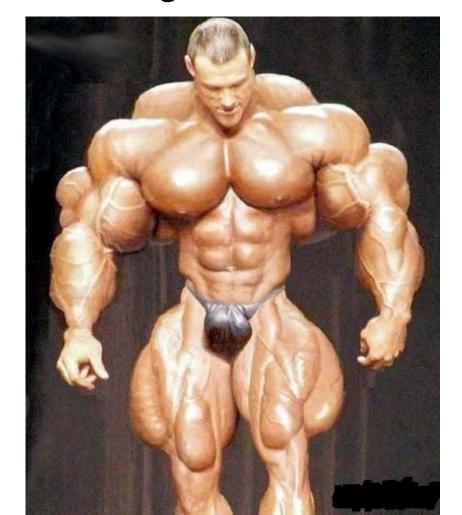


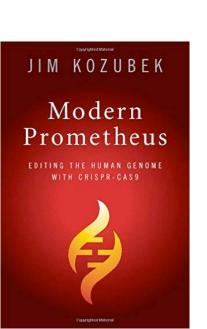
Of course all of these new technologies provide new opportunities for crime, including crime by robots and posthumans too --





while the probability that good intentions will go awry, with monsters produced when docile geniuses were intended, are greater still--



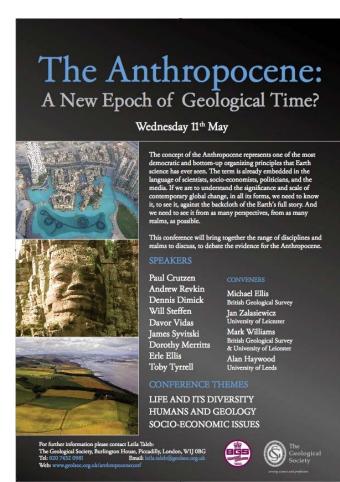




thus providing boundless new job opportunities for you.

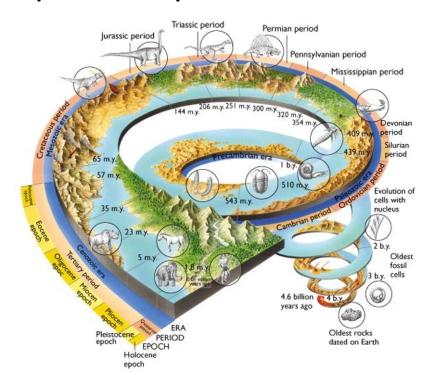
But I have been mainly discussing only one future so far!

There is every reason to assume that all of those high tech fantasies will be swept away by the challenges of the Anthropocene Epoch.



Even though humans are extremely recent arrivals in the overall evolutionary processes,

many geologists are now saying that the Earth and all its inhabitants have moved from the Holocene Epoch in which humans emerged, into the Anthropocene Epoch which we have created..







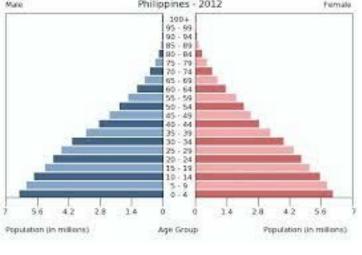
In an evolutionary eye blink,
humans have profoundly altered
every geological and biological process on Earth
that once operated independently of human influence.

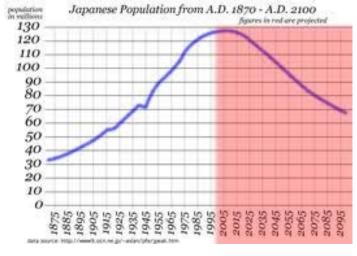






As a consequence,
humanity is faced with
a host of unique challenges
of which our acts are the major cause:

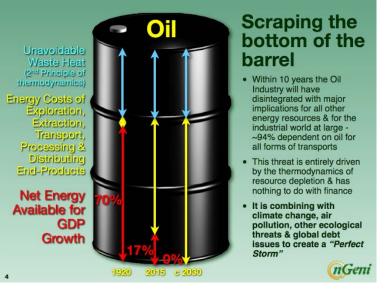




global overpopulation and local population decline;

an inequitable economy that relies on population growth to keep the economy growing;





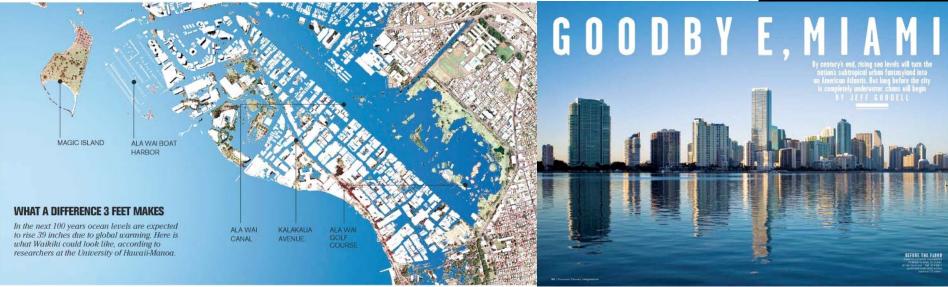
the end of cheap and abundant energy that made the past 200 years of material effluence possible;

the end of stable and predictable weather patterns that, along with cheap and abundant oil, made cheap and abundant food possible;



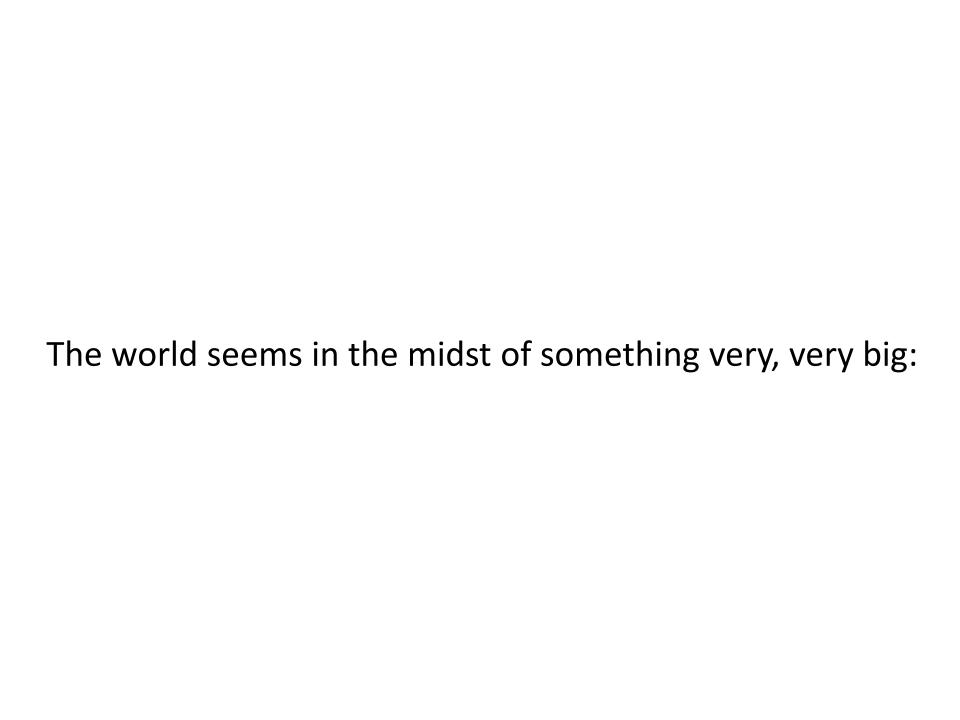
rapidly rising global temperatures and rapidly rising warming seas—





all showing that the future soon may be profoundly different from the present or the past,

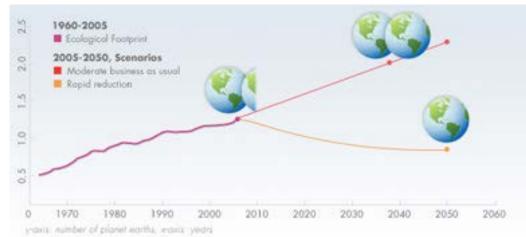
and that architects have a special obligation and opportunity to prepare us for it.

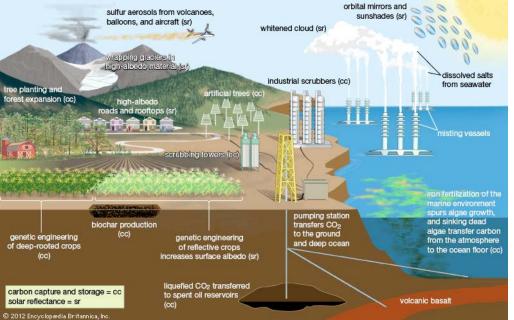




either ending many thousands of years of human interference with nature,

and trying to find a way to balance our ecological debt,







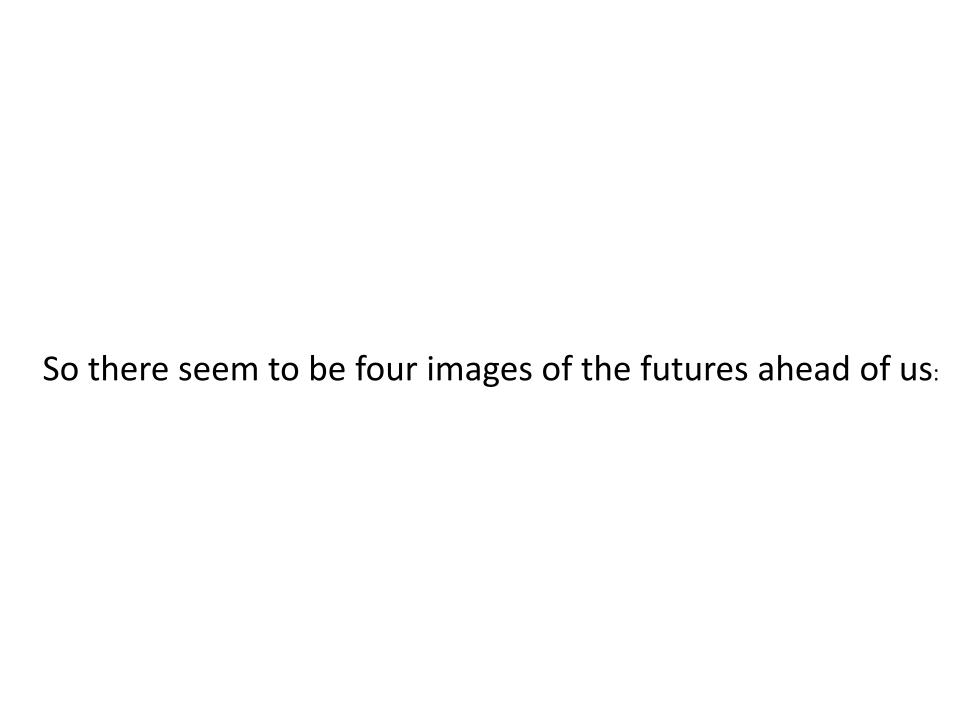
or engaging in "geoengineering" on a far more massive scale than ever before—

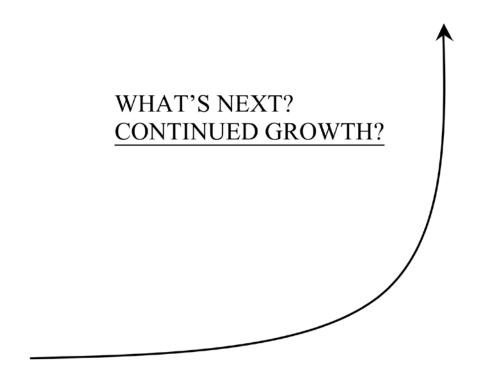
such as purposely putting material into the atmosphere by exploding nuclear bombs, or causing volcanoes massively to erupt, or seeding the oceans to produce algae blooms, all in order to induce global cooling or....

Or we will do nothing but continue irresponsibly on, focusing on petty wars, squabbles, and terrors,



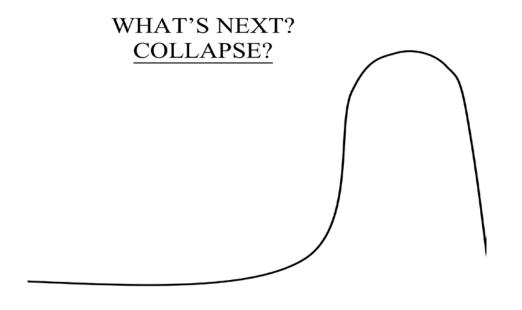
and let nature decide what to do about humans, including getting rid of us entirely and starting anew.





Grow

(Continued Economic Growth), the official future of all institutions and countries everywhere in the world today;



Collapse,

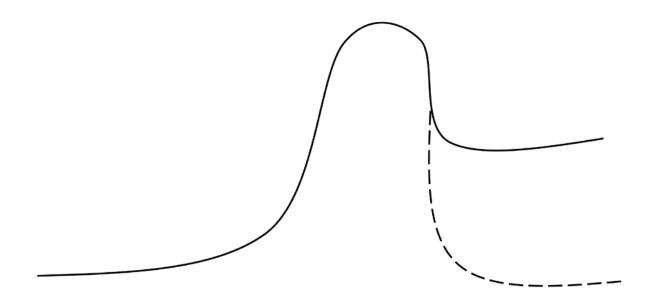
As governments, economies and the biosphere fail, bringing all industrialized processes down with them,

while offering a rare opportunity for New Beginnings;

Discipline,

around values that will stop both Collapse and Growth and allow us to thrive in harmony with all life;

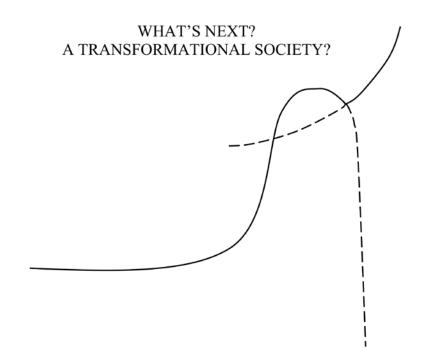




Transformation,

as robots, artificial intelligence, transhumans and posthumans on Earth and on the Moon, Mars, Venus and elsewhere transform humans into something that emerges from us,

but is as unpredictable in form and purpose





as a butterfly is unpredictable

if all you have ever seen is a caterpillar beginning to spin its cocoon.





Under the assumptions of **Grow**, the future of crime and justice architecture will continue to be determined by the wishes of whoever controls global finance and politics.







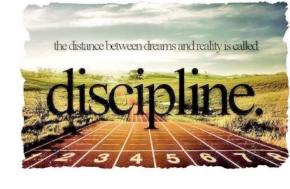


Collapse offers the opportunity for profoundly new and better human relations in balance with the biosphere— as well as the possibility of a future of unimaginable cruelty and barbarity if we do not prepare affirmatively for Collapse.





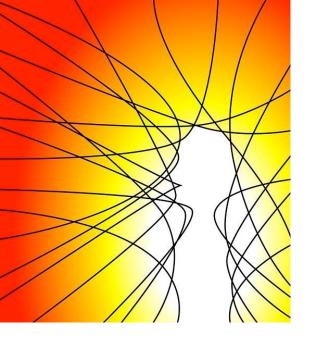




In a **Disciplined** Society,
acts against whatever is necessary for
environmental sustainability
may be treated as the most serious crimes,
with environmental criminals dealt with severely.







One version of a **Transformational Society** is eloquently expressed in this poem by Richard Brautigan:





I like to think
(and the sooner the better!)
of a cybernetic meadow
where mammals and computers
live together
in mutually programming harmony
like pure water
touching clear sky.





I like to think
(right now please!)
of a cybernetic forest
filled with pines and electronics
where deer stroll peacefully
past computers
as if they were flowers
with spinning blossoms.



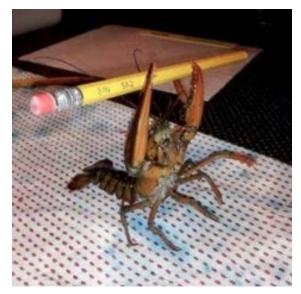


I like to think (it has to be!) of a cybernetic ecology where we are free of our labors and joined back to nature, returned to our mammal brothers and sisters, and all watched over by machines of loving grace.





What a great time it is to be young and alive—
all the old ways seem to be disintegrating
providing an exceptional opportunity and obligation
to create new worlds all over again.









What a great time to be an architect, full of energy, vision, and the ability to mobilize people to make your dreams come true.



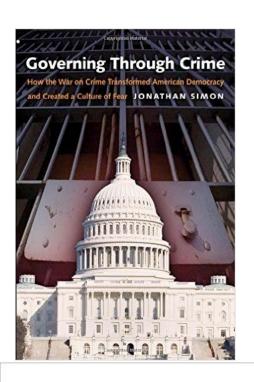




I can hardly wait to see what you make of this extraordinary moment in time.



Alternative Futures of Justice and Architectural Design





Academy of Architecture for Justice Conference

November 2-5, 2016 | Honolulu, Hawaii



Department of Political Science
Futures Studies

