

## From Colonia to Silver Lake. The Recoupling of Eco-Societies and *Climate Changes*

By Andrés Jaque

In 1968, Abel left Colonia (Uruguay), the town where he had been raised. In the course of ten years, farms there, such as the one Abel's family had so far lived by, had gone through a process of consolidation into upscaled agricultural exploitations. The change in Colonia's environment, prompted the migration of a significant part of the young *Colonienses*. In his current home in Silver Lake (LA), Abel has occupied the space between his backyard and the freeway with a stepped vegetable patch. Chatting daily through Skype and exchanging the seeds of their best crops through letters, Abel's *Colonien* relatives and old friends now living in Venezuela, Italy or Alaska have reconstructed a *transmedia* and networked version of their past concentrated eco-society. Whereas the previous version was perceived by them as natural, place-based and fixed; the new setting is perceived as constructed and technologically mediated, based on post-trauma recomposition and unstable.<sup>1</sup>

Once the expectations for a reversion of Climate Change have weakened, and its effects in form of migrations and decoupling between human relational ecosystems and their past demarcations are no longer avoidable, the persistence-through-recomposition of this tiny *Colonien* milieu suddenly stands out as a plausible beginning for a conversation on architecture.

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<sup>1</sup> Abel's case is part of the research project 'Different Kinds of Water Pouring Into a Swimming Pool' developed in 2012-13 by Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation with the support of CalArts, California Institute of the Arts (Los Angeles). Andrés Jaque, *Different Kinds of Water Pouring Into a Swimming Pool* (Los Angeles: CalArts, California Institute of the Arts, 2013).