EXPERIMENTATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARCHITECTURE AND THE IMAGE:

A COMPLEX FOR COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES
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ABSTRACT

The internet..."A computer generated landscape that people enter by jacking in and travel in a place of unthinkable complexity with lines of light ranged in the(tm) space of the mind, clusters and constellations of data...like city lights redefining". The quote comes from Neuromancer, a book by William Gibson who wrote of a place called cyberspace before the Internet birth had taken place. Thirteen years later what was once a science fiction story becomes a reality with no clear outlook to where it will take us. The revolution has only just begun, but already it's starting to overwhelm us. It's outstripping our capacity to cope, outpacing our laws, transforming our morals, reshuffling our economy, reordering our priorities, redefining our workplaces, shifting our concept of reality, as we wait for our hard drives to process the next byte of information. In order to understand this beast of technology we must first see its origin, dissect its parts, and identify what it feeds on, in order to clearly see what it is and what it may become.

Similar to television and the radio, the other two main beasts of information, the Internet's origin stems from a government experiment. It was created over 20 years ago by the Defense Department to form a system of communication that cannot be destroyed in the event of war. It is a networking of computers with no one controlling computer therefore it can only be destroyed if all computers that are linked are eliminated. In 1984 the once controlled beast of the internet was unleashed to the public. After its unleashing it grew at an incredible rate doubling every year to its current size of over 2 billion people in more than 160 countries. One of the factors to its growth is that it is still a nonproprietary beast and answers to no single person as it crosses all national boundaries, escaping all laws. In a Time/CNN poll of 800 Americans who were asked what cyberspace meant, 57% didn't know and 85% were certain that the information technology had made their life better. They may not know what it is or where it is but they do not want to be left behind in the information revolution. I believe the unknown factor of the Internet is a problem. Nobody knows what will happen in five years but I believe that the current state of the Internet is a hint of the future, which will be one of a truly decentralized society with the driving force of money pushing it at an absurd speed to a final climax.
The building which manifests itself is a direct reaction to the desires of the site and more importantly to the functions it houses. The purpose of this thesis though is to make an addition to the desires and to solve a desire which is not so evident to the naked eye. This desire is to eliminate the product which will manifest itself in the near future if nothing is done to change its clear and certain direction. The product I speak of is decentralized society where human interaction is almost eliminated. The thesis manifests a new building type one which is labeled "a complex for computer technologies". This complex looks at the relationship between architecture and the computer image in three different levels but always promoting human interaction.