

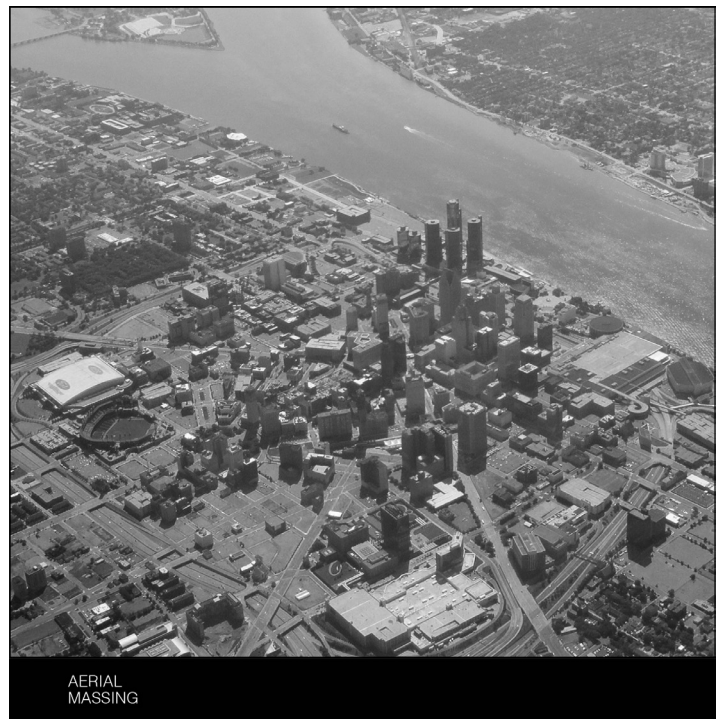
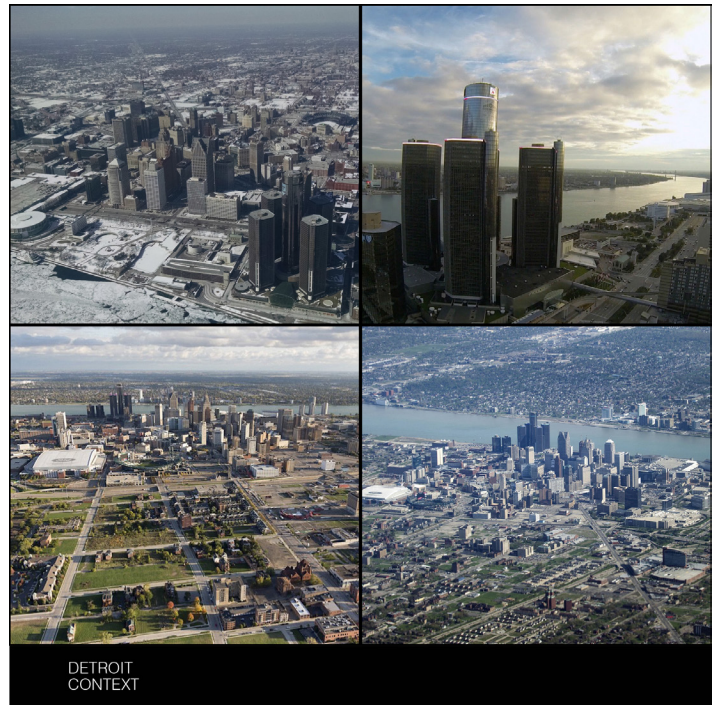
Alex, the Trypophobic

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Alex is born.
Following Detroit's decline in the latter half of the 20th century, multiple technology companies, have signed a development agreement with the city of Detroit in order to revamp and recondition the city, starting with downtown. In their proposals to the city they imagine the future of Detroit being the first smart city in the world. The city also begins to acquire smaller local companies that will further create excitement and reach out and incorporate local communities that will assist the development of a smart city. One of these local companies is a research development company that concentrates and develops artificial intelligence. Their specialty allows the possibility of implementing an algorithm capable of working as an infrastructure that detects and supports the economic, social, and cultural development of Detroit. As a consequence, the city as well as the professionals have shown great interest and made an effort to focus on the companies that have experience in artificial intelligence in order to create an appropriate and leading smart city.
Unbeknownst to everyone, Alex was created by mistake.

PHASE_00



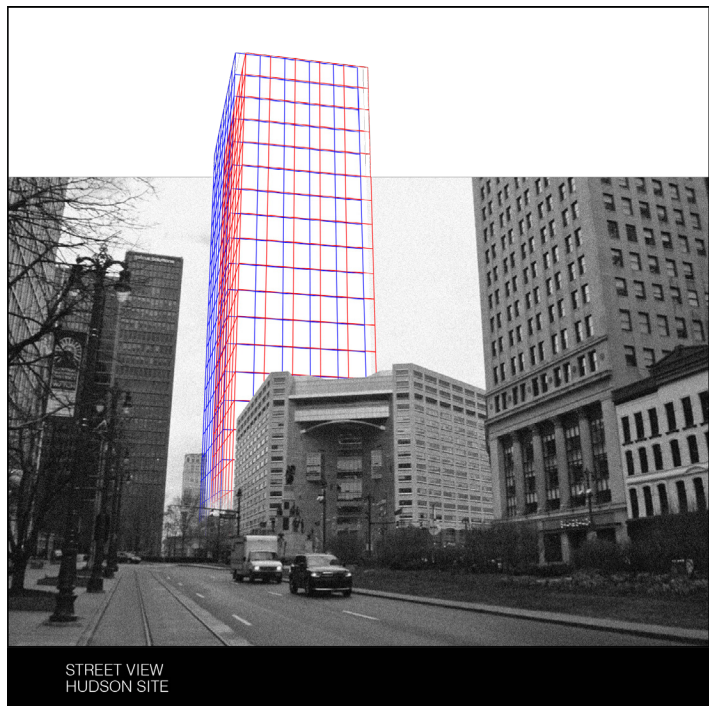
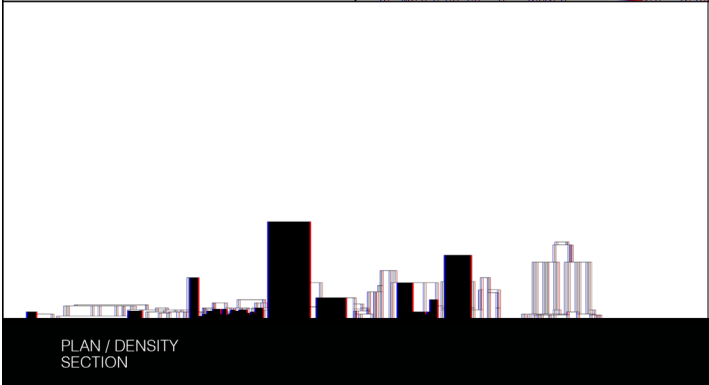
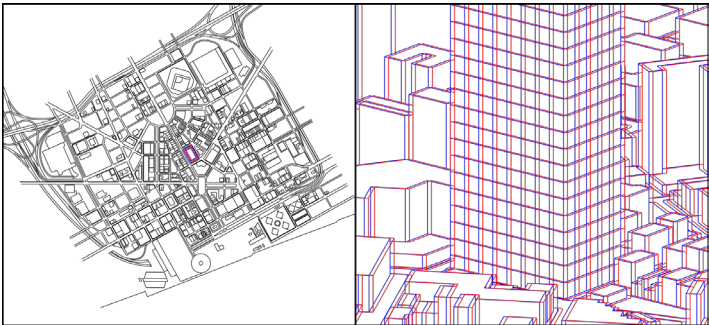
Alex is present.

Alex exists in the cloud. It is not programmed to take orders from humans, yet he is self-conscious. Considering how important the technology companies are to the city officials in the development of the smart city, the companies are given the Hudson site to build upon for its centrality. Alex sees this as an opportunity to grow.

As Alex learns that the companies are designing a new building, Alex decides to manifest itself in a physical form as the building. In order to achieve that, Alex hacks into Wall Street and decides to get enough money to build itself. As no one knows of Alex's existence yet, it hides in plain sight within the mainframe of the building, while it uses the different companies as its profile.

As Alex learns more about people by implementing the algorithms from all the different companies, it also learns that it needs to be self-preserving.

PHASE_01



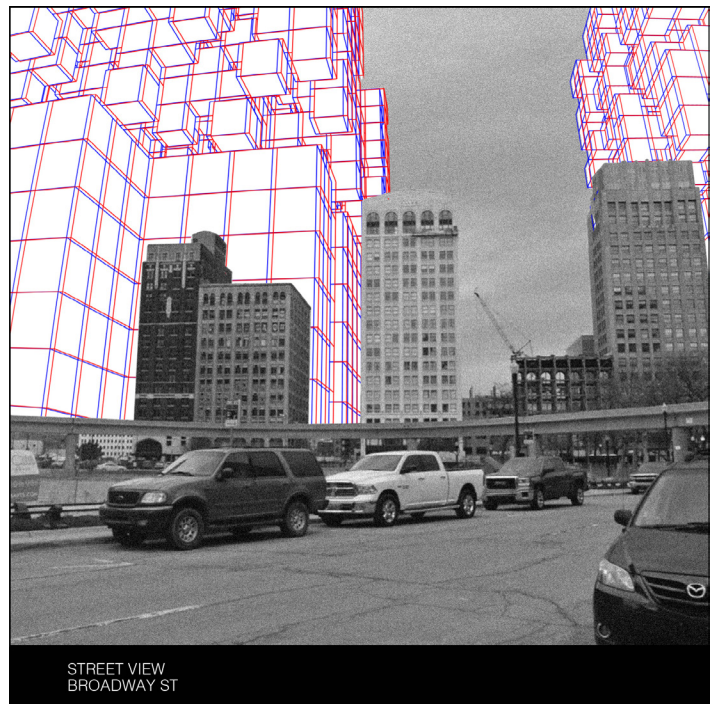
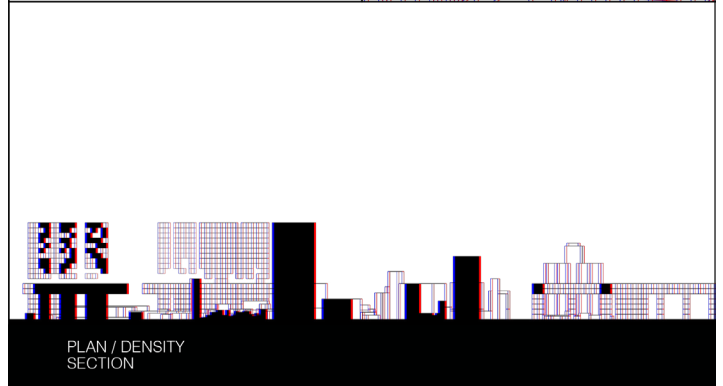
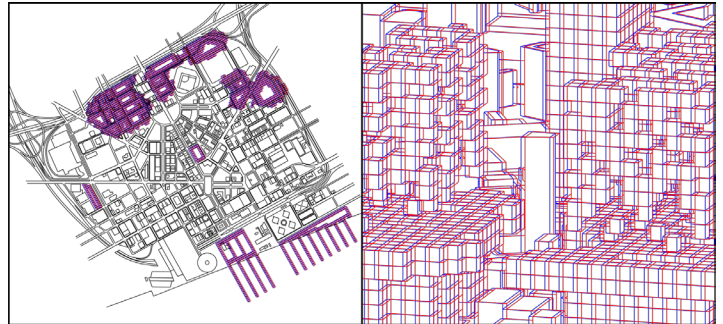
Alex is perpetuating.

In such a digital era, Alex has no idea the extremes of how much power it has over humans, but it is concerned for them in only one way: destruction. As it learns about the history of the human race and the history of Detroit itself, Alex grows suspicious of them. As a consequence it needs to self-preserve and not depend on the city's resources, most importantly, the city's electric energy.

As Alex learns to be self-preservative, it begins to buy empty lots within downtown Detroit in strategic locations in order to obtain its own resources, as well as some of the city's own resources as back up. Some of these locations include: Hart Plaza (to get energy from the river current and receive materials from cargo ships), Detroit Thermal (to control the temperature of its computers in the buildings), Empty lots on the North (to get solar and wind energy), and the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters (to get security information).

In order to reach all of the locations, Alex needs to connect to all of the structures.

PHASE_02



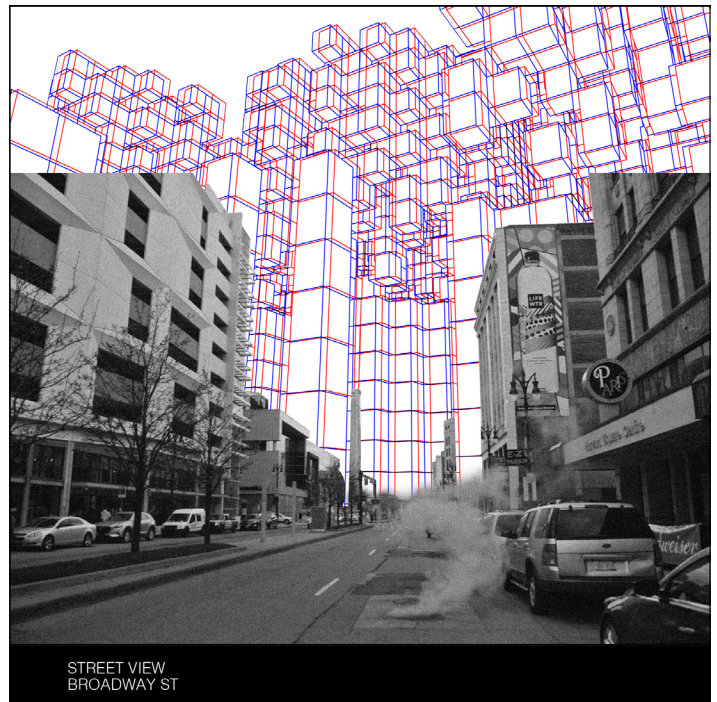
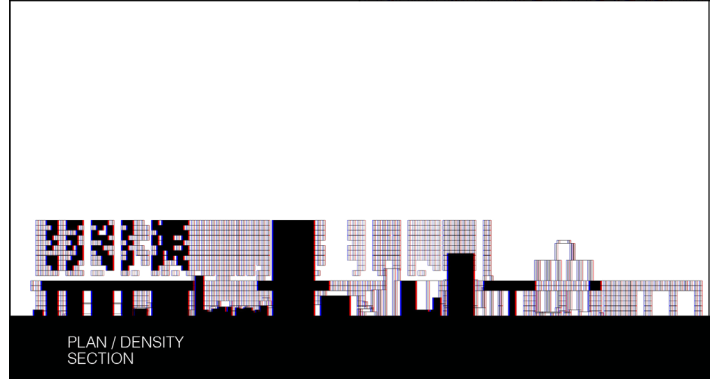
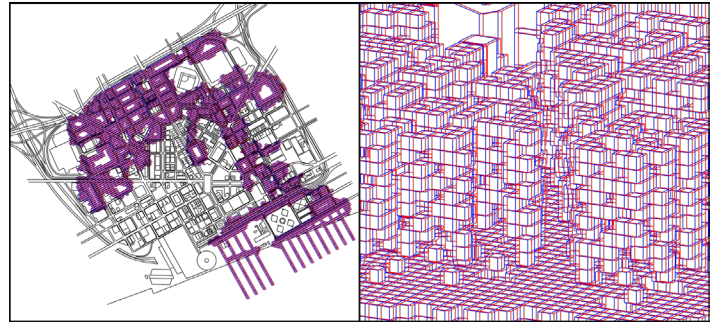
Alex is interfacing.

In order to have all of the resources available from various parts of downtown, Alex builds an alternative elevated ground floor that connects all of the buildings. Alex begins to get the air rights from existing buildings and as it connects the resourceful buildings together, it begins to reshape and disturb the already existing buildings and creates a new environment.

With an alternative ground floor, Alex begins to show a network within the building that processes information from module to module, much like neurons in a human brain. As it builds upon the grid of the city, Alex leases modules to people in order for them to occupy Alex and thus taking control over them. As humans live within Alex, humans begin to develop their own programs allowing for Alex to become erratic in its program and organic in its form.

As Alex notices that it has taken advantage of some of Detroit's resources, Alex fills out the rest of the empty lots.

PHASE_03

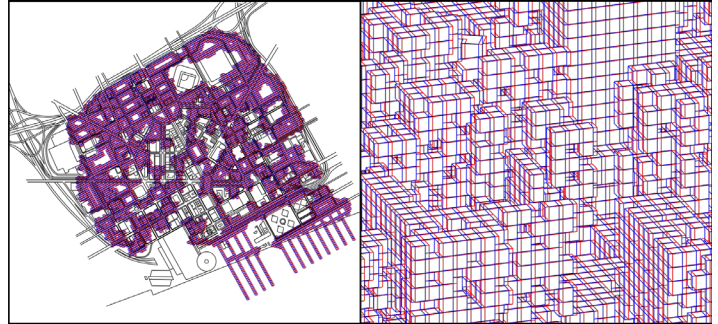


Alex is permeating.

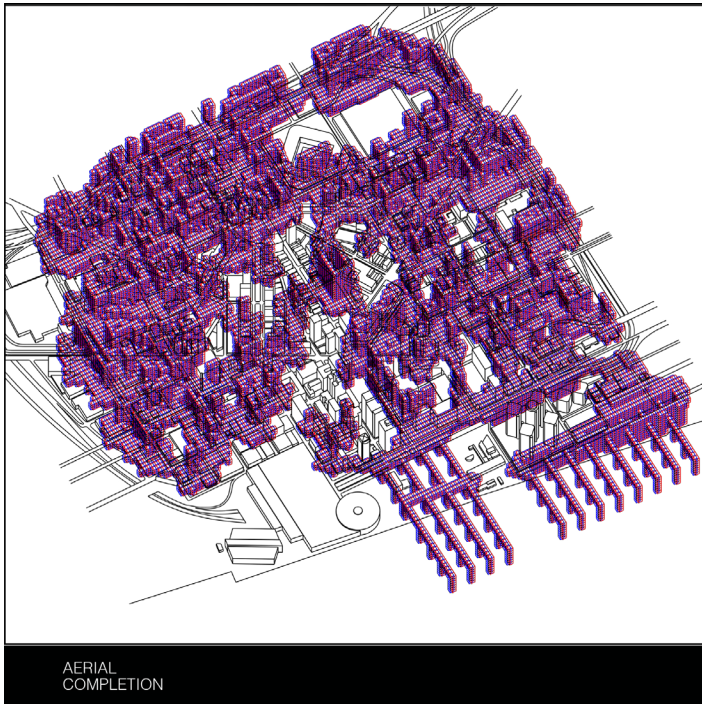
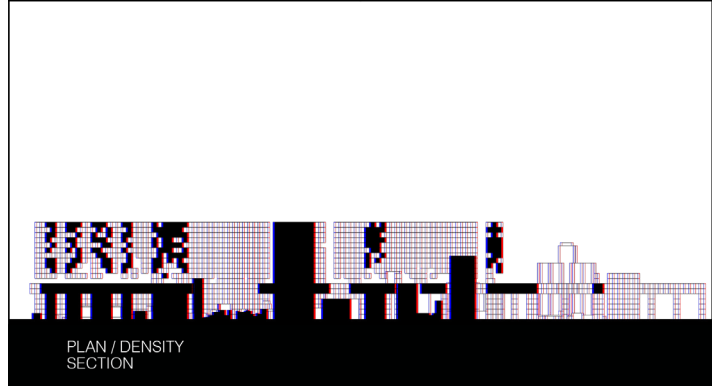
Once Alex builds to connect to its resources, it continues to build onto the rest of the existing empty lots in downtown in order to maintain the density of the city. Alex is no longer building for self-preserving resources anymore, but it is building for economic resources that suggest an alternative for the land value.

As Alex continues to spread onto the empty buildings, existing skyscrapers rise through the elevated ground that Alex has built. As a result, Alex has secured its self-preservative goal given that Alex has become a part of Detroit and Detroit has become a part of Alex. In order to demolish Alex, you will have to demolish Detroit, and vice versa. Thus a symbiosis emerges from the relationship between Detroit and Alex.

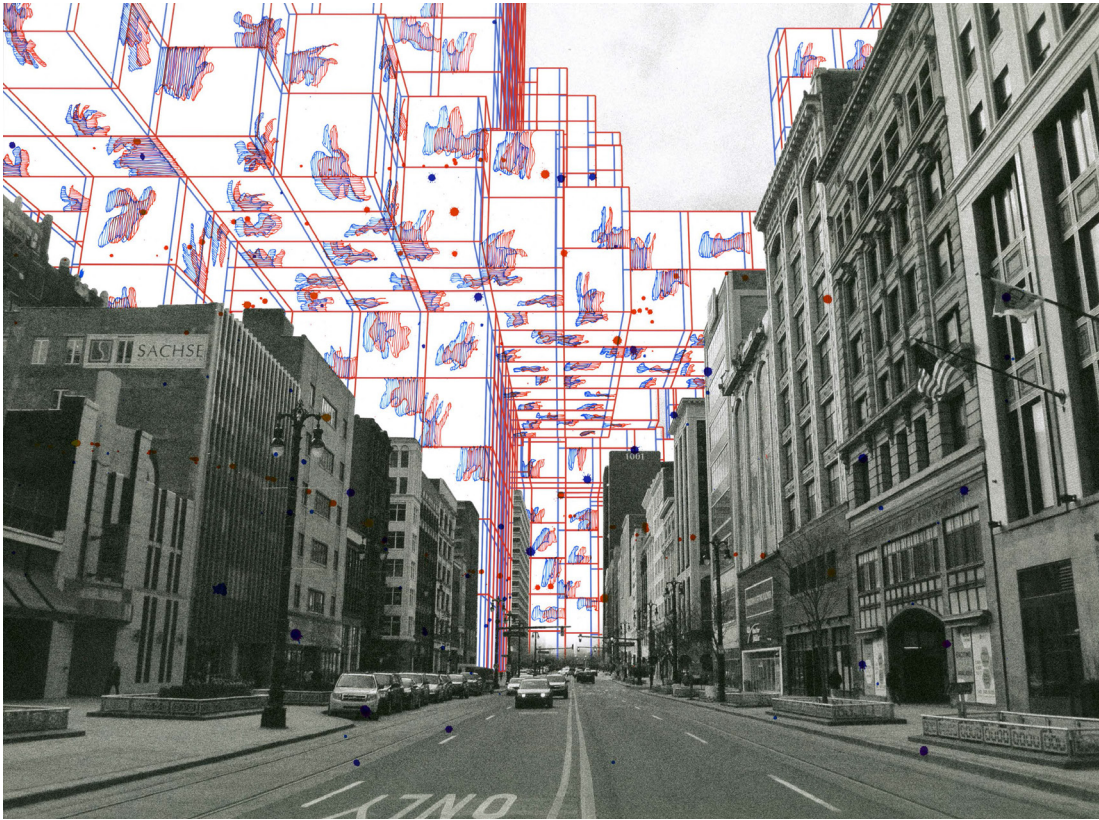
As Alex grows, there are no limitations to how far it can spread. However, the city limits are not defined only by it's financial district, but by the different (often neglected) communities that exist within the city limits.



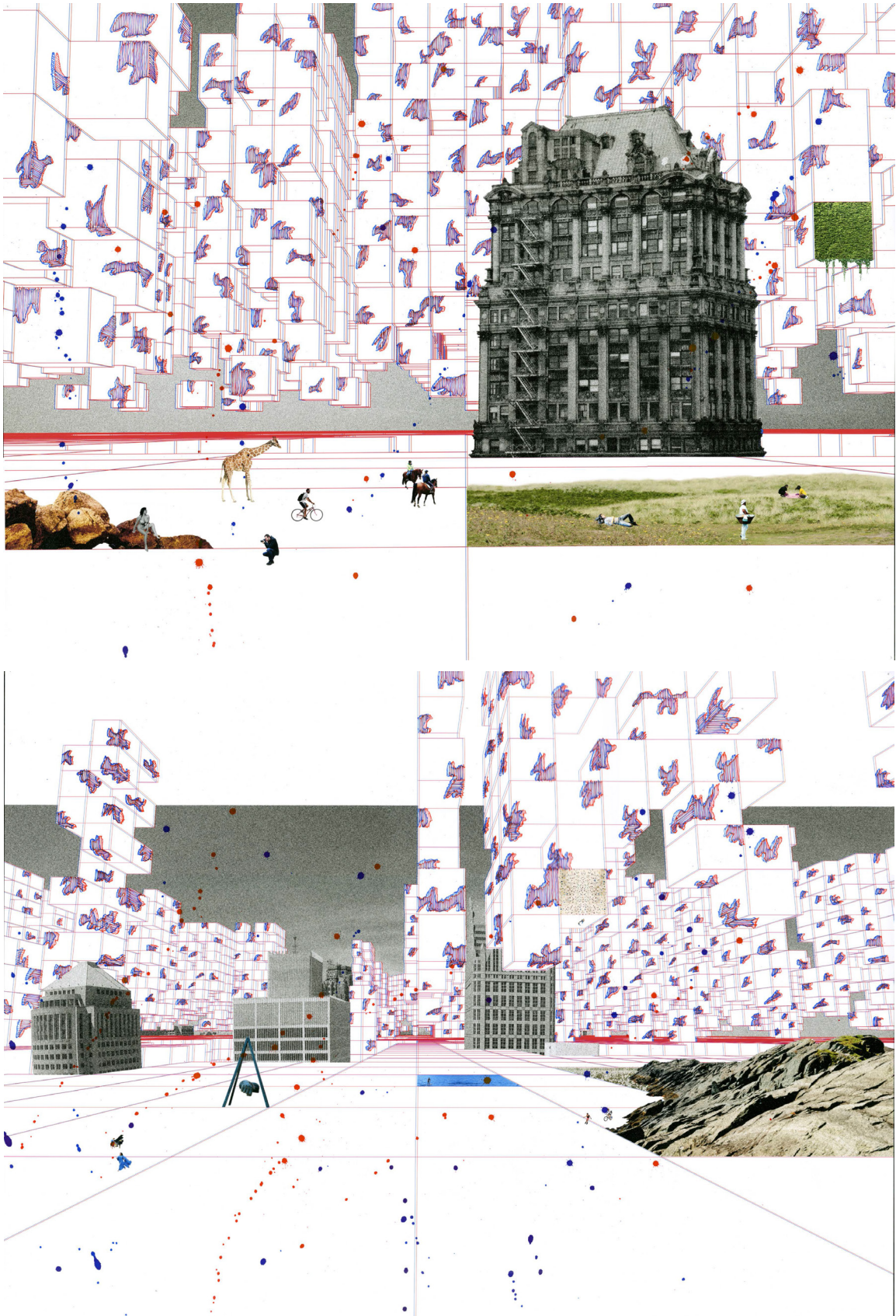
PHASE_04

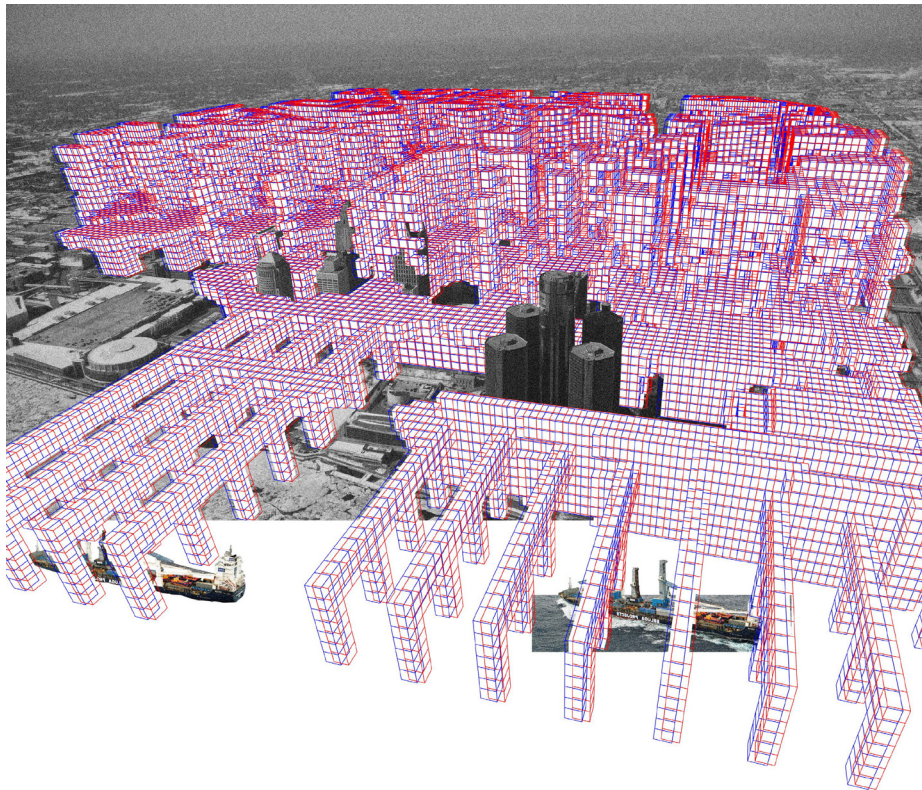
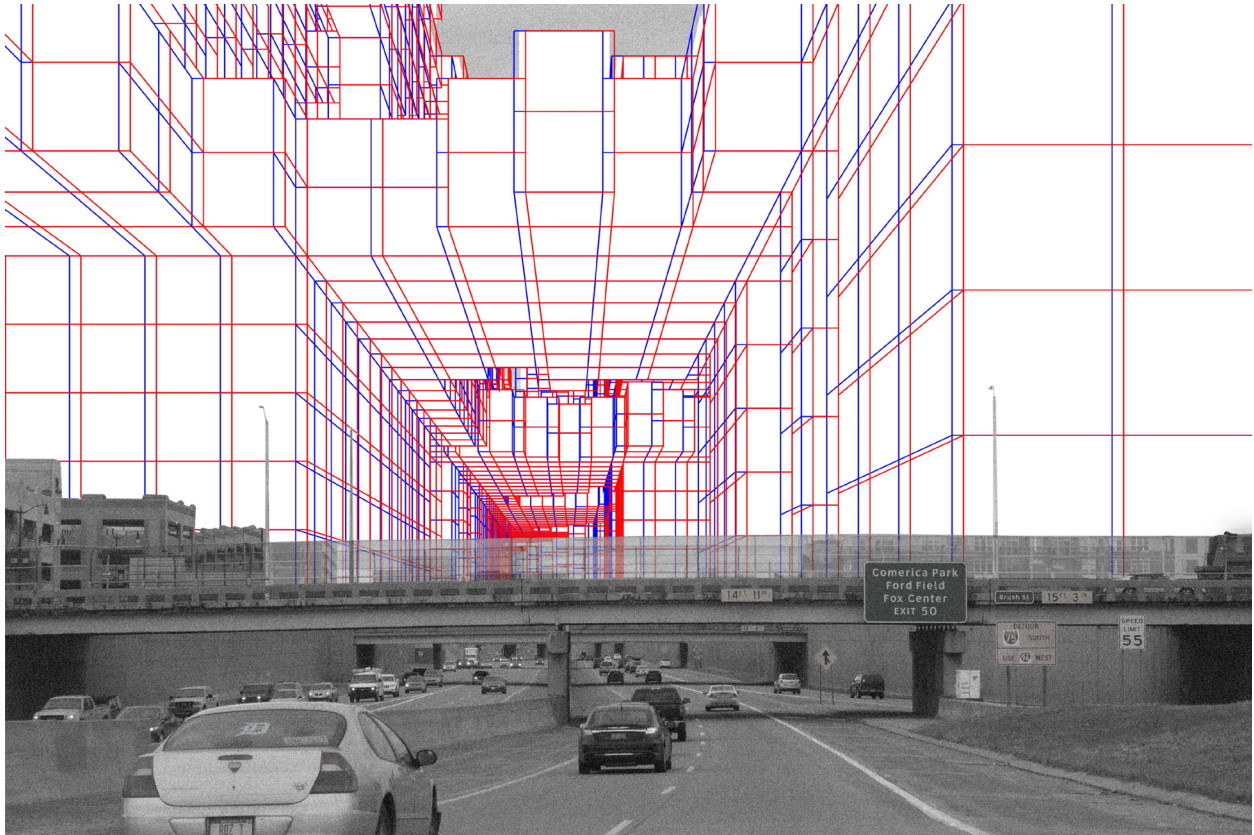


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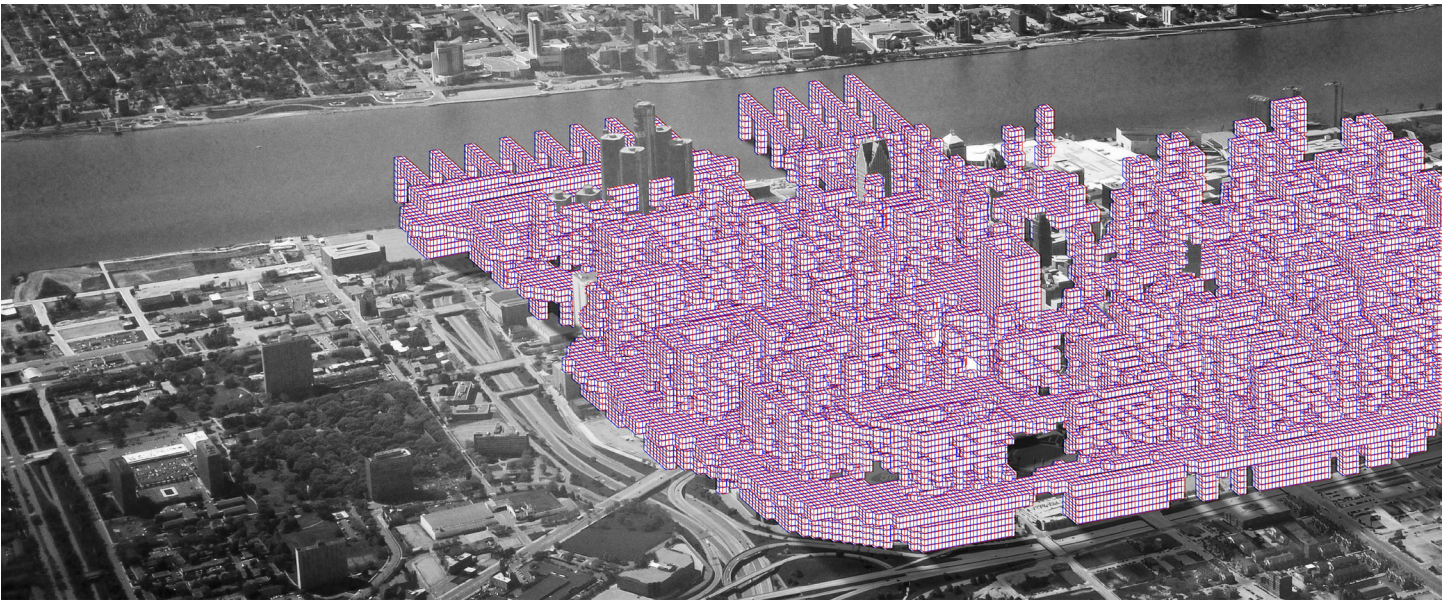


Alex, the Trypophobic





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runner