

Power Struggle

Personal Information

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Project Abstract

The project collects past, present, and future stories of energy in, around, and through Gibraltar: fuel economies in the age of Franco; the refueling of middle eastern tankers; the transition from diesel to LNG fuel sources; the additional load of bedroom bit-coin miners, to industrial scale server farms; the interception of fuel tankers bound of middle eastern war zones; the design of new power stations; the laying of new power cables between Europe and north Africa; new forms of decentralized energy sources and the impact of energy migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

The stories speak both of the internal and local logics of Gibraltar, and of its role within international networks: the alliances, arrangements, and compromises it makes to 'keep the power switched on' and remain a feasible territory; the economical and infrastructural side-effects of energy networks that pass around and through the straits and the peninsula.

The project describes how these networks manifest themselves in infrastructure, buildings, and spaces: cables, landing stations, and maintenance rooms; docks, re-fueling stations, and dormitories; LNG trading routes, power stations, control rooms; data networks, underground storage tunnels, bedrooms.

It does so in order to tell new stories about Gibraltar; not as a provincial cul-de-sac out of time, but as a node and a conduit in one of the key Geo-strategic locations in the Mediterranean. This is a location of increasing importance in the decades of climate emergency, as Europe turns towards north Africa for new sources of energy, as climate migrants line the Mediterranean coastline, as shipping and trade transforms.

Individual Position

The British overseas territory of Gibraltar currently holds the status of "Tailored Decolonization". This implying that the government is in constant negotiation and trial with the United Kingdom. This places Gibraltar in an interesting position, where they posses the stability and support of a nation as strong as Britain, but are not held to the bureaucratic structures that exist with in the complexities of British political system. Hence Gibraltar finds its self in a unique position of agility, where it can adapt and change laws and regulations in a much more hastily fashion, unlike its original colonizer state.

This potential of rapid legal flexibility has lead to the birth of many new economies. Gibraltar holds the current status as the number one bunkering station in the Mediterranean, only as a result of its low fuel taxes. Additionally the current rise in online gambling business was in response to the capped tax conditions that the government deployed, intending to attract the likes of offshore banking. The legal systems in Gibraltar have been very welcoming to new technologies and its fluid adaption to cryptocurrency has been one of the most inviting to investors worldwide.

So how does a nation with no natural resources stay afloat? It strategically manipulates a dependence from others in order to make its self a necessity on both a local and global scale.

The individual position of this project is one that is grounded in an investigation of Gibaltars constructed dependencies, using them as a case study for similar conditions found globally. The reliance on these negotiations and economical adaptation has created an agile political and economical infrastructural model, making it both attractive and cautious to outside investment.

Structure, Method, and Format

In the case of energy, it is a theme that can be woven into almost any topic of discussion. It is the life force of all forms of economical production and evolution.

While energy is something that can be investigated broadly speaking, from high-tech scientific solutions to quantitative mathematical calculations based on efficiency, its heterogeneity allows for multiple forms of access. The project does not combat or wrestle with the topic of energy specifically, but rather uses it as an entry point into additional situations that hold influence to its effect. In electing to use the channel of speculation, the project picks upon a series of anecdotes that in one way or another link back to the energy situation in Gibraltar. The primary intention of the study is to view the topic of energy in a different light, posing new questions that relate to Gibraltar specifically, whilst also entering into a global debate.

The intended method will make use of traditional and evolving architectural tools, in an attempt to trace the impacts and spatial consequences resulting in the conversation around energy. Cartographic exploration will be used to grater understand local and global fuel supply networks, while three dimensional model scanning techniques will be adopted to understand the cave networks in detail, posing calculated efficient solutions to maximize data framing and storage.

Expanding on the schizophrenic nature of the project, the format will take on multiple different forms of architectural representation. Using traditional and more contemporary mixed media, the final exhibit will display the findings in models, cartographic studies, a short documentary and three dimensional photogrammetry. The intended format also allows new anecdotes to arise during the project and give lead to new fields of research.

Outcomes and Deliverables

The project aims to explore a series of situations specific to Gibraltar. In spatializing them and repositioning them together, an attempt is made to tell a new untold story about Gibraltar. Gibraltar is hence used as an index and access point into different conversations that apply to multiple global examples of similar conditions. The final outcome of the project will take the form of a mixed media display that presents the different methods of investigation and their findings. The exhibition will present the overlapping stories and situations in various architectural representational techniques, the model, the drawing, the map, the detail and film.

Deliverables:

—A short film (30-40min) compilation of the findings will presented in a documentary style format.

—A book publication that re-represents the findings in a more static linear fashion.

—A cartographic investigation of global energy and supply networks. (Fossil Fuels/LNG/Cryptocurrency)

—A model of the caves inside the rock, showing potential expansion of caves.

—An analysis of fuel storage relative to time.

—A series of found and printed policy documents that have had crucial effect of Gibaltars economical buoyancy.

Work Plan

Calendar week 29–33

Research and investigation into photogrammetry and 3D cave scanning.
Model experimentaton and energy mapping

Calendar week 29–34

Friday, August 23 Summer assignment due

Calendar week 35, course week 1.0

Monday, August 26 Compulsory kick-off workshop
–Friday, August 29

Calendar week 36, course week 1.1

Friday, 6 September Presentation of collective work and individual pin-ups with Hugo Corbett, Salomon
Frausto, Michiel Riedijk, and Pablo De Sola Montiel

Draaibook of Final Project Deliverables

Calendar week 37, course week 1.2

Friday, September 13 Collective Presentation #1: On Position
with Hugo Corbett, Salomon Frausto, Michiel Riedijk, and international guest critics

Collective work

Calendar week 38, course week 1.3

Tuesday, September 17 Submission of updated collective drawings
Thursday, September 19 Discussion on collective work and individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett

Collective drawings

Calendar week 39, course week 1.4

Thursday, September 26 Discussion on collective work and individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett
Thursday, September 26– Excursion to Porto
Monday, September 30 Individual Drawings/model

Calendar week 40, course week 1.5

Friday, October 4 Individual desk crits with Michiel Riedijk

Full drawing set for discussion of 6 situations.

Calendar week 41, course week 1.6

Tuesday, October 8	Submission for comments of collective materials for Collective Presentation #2: On Argumentation and Narrative
Thursday, October 10	Discussion on collective work and individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett
	Collective/Individual work

Calendar week 42, course week 1.7

Monday, October 14	Pencils down, submission of final collective materials for Collective Presentation #2 On Argumentation and Narrative
Friday, October 18	Collective Presentation #2: On Argumentation and Narrative with Hugo Corbett, Salomon Frausto, Michiel Riedijk, and international guest critics
	Collective Work

Calendar week 43, course week 1.8

Thursday, October 24	Discussion on collective work and individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett
	Finalised Drawings and print tests

Calendar week 44, course week 1.9

Monday, October 28	Pencils down, submission to graphic designer of final collective drawings, images, and text for publication
Friday, November 1	Individual desk crits with Michiel Riedijk
	Model and drawing process.

Calendar week 45, course week 1.10

Monday, November 5:	Submission of final draft individual drawings and images for publication
Wednesday, November 6	Pencils down, submission of final publication texts for copy-editing
Thursday, November 7	Discussion on collective work and individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett
	Finalising texts.

Calendar week 46, course week 2.1

Monday, November 12	Discussion on collective work and individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett
	Presentation of draft proposal for thesis exhibition and event
Wednesday, November 13	Collective work

Calendar week 47, course week 2.2

Monday, November 18	Pencils down, submission of all final collective work for E2
Thursday, November 21	Pencils down, submission of all materials for Collective Presentation #3: On Actualization and Materialization
Friday, November 22	Collective Presentation #3 On Actualization and Materialization with Hugo Corbett, Salomon Frausto, Michiel Riedijk, and international guest critics
	Final touches collective video. All hands on deck collective work.

Calendar week 48, course week 2.3

Monday, November 25	Individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett
Friday, November 29	Pencils down, submission of final project dossier to examiner
	Complete Dossier and required supporting imagery

Calendar week 49, course week 2.4

Wednesday, December 4	Pencils down, submission of all individual work for E2
Thursday, December 5	E2 (go/no go presentation)
Friday, December 6	E2 (go/no go presentation)
	Comments: reposition argument related to Hypothesis. Materialise the architecture.

Calendar week 50, course week 2.5

Monday, December 9	Presentation of proposal for exhibition panels and models/artifacts
	Individual desk crits with Hugo Corbett based on E2 comments
Tuesday, December 10	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Wednesday, December 11	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Thursday, December 12	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Friday, December 13	Pencils down, submission of all final individual drawings for publication

Calendar week 51, course week 2.6

Monday, December 17	Pencils down, submission of draaiboek for final event
	Pencils down, submission of final exhibition design
	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Friday, December 20	Collective Presentation #4: On Comments from E2 with Hugo Corbett, Salomon Frausto, and Michiel Riedijk
Friday, December 20	E2 Retakes

Calendar week 52

Monday, December 22	Submission of collective panels and banners for exhibition
Tuesday, December 23	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Friday, December 26	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments

Calendar week 1

Monday, December 29	Pencils down, submission of final collective E3 video script for copy editing
Tuesday, December 30	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Wednesday, December 31	Post-production of individual project based on E2 comments
Friday, January 2	Submission of individual E3 video script for comments

Calendar week 2, course week 2.7

Monday, January 6	Pencils down, send all collective panels and banners for exhibition to print
Thursday, January 9	Pencils down, submission of individual E3 video scripts for copy editing .
Friday, January 10	Dress rehearsal for public final event and presentations with Hugo Corbett, Salomon Frausto, and Michiel Riedijk

Calendar week 3, course week 2.8

Monday, January 13	Pencils down, send all individual panels for exhibition to print
Monday, January 13– Thursday, January 16	Film workshop
Friday, January 17	Pencils down, submission of final project books to printer Dress rehearsal for E3 with Hugo Corbett, Salomon Frausto, and Michiel Riedijk

Calendar week 4, course week 2.9

Monday, January 21	Pencils down, submission of all final models and artifacts for exhibition
Monday, January 21– Thursday, January 23	Film workshop
Tuesday, January 22	Exhibition build-up
Wednesday, January 23	Exhibition build-up
Thursday, January 24	Exhibition installation
Friday, January 25	Final dress rehearsal for public final event and presentations and submission of all required final materials to the TU Delft Repository and to examiners. Exhibition opening
Saturday, January 26	Pencils down, submission of E3 videos for upload to Vimeo

Calendar week 5, course week 2.10

Monday, January 27	Second dress rehearsal for E3
Wednesday, January 29	Final preparations for public final event and presentations
Thursday, January 30	Public final event and presentations, concluded by book launch
Friday, January 31	E3 with thesis examiner and graduation ceremony
