TECHNOLOGY. What strikes the eye of the passerby as a growth or entropy is technology, that is, information. Since cities no longer lie within the panopticon of the cathedral or castle and can no longer be enclosed by walls or fortifications, a network made up of intersecting networks dissects and connects the city–in particular its fringes, peripheries, and tangents. Regardless of whether these networks transmit information (telephone, radio, television) or energy (water supply, electricity, highway), they all represent forms of information.   Friedrich Kittler, The City as a Medium

This seminar uses the close reading approach to study selected texts by contemporary philosophers. The selection of philosophers is based on their reference to architectural and urban themes. What is meant by close reading? This approach will use small chapters and shorter texts to gain access to the approach. Rather than reading vast quantities of material, the class will look at fragments and discuss the content. This will give students an opportunity to pursue reading in greater depth during thesis.

Texts will be selected by students during the first seminar. The second seminar will present several of the philosophers work available as streamed video by Tate Modern, and ubu.com, for example. The order of the seminars will be determined as a function of student selection of texts. Currently most of the selections are available as digital copies. It may be possible to add additional texts.

Texts by the following contemporary philosophers will be made available for close reading.

Giorgio Agamben	The Man without Content
Roland Barthes	The Eiffel Tower
Pierre Bourdieu	Distinction
Walter Benjamin	
Benjamin Buchloh	The Blade Runner Situation
Judith Butler	What is Critique? An Essay on Foucault's Virtue
Michel de Certeau	The Practice of Everyday Life Chapter: Walking in the City
Jacques Derrida	Of Hospitality
Giles Deleuze	The Logic of Sense Chapters 1,2
Michel Foucault	
Boris Groys	The Artist as Consumer
Harold Innis	
Friedrich Kittler	The City as a Medium
	Gramophone, Film, Typewriter
	On the Implementation of Knowledge–Toward a Theory of Hardware
	There is no Software
Siefried Kracauer,	Cult of Distraction: On Berlin's Picture Palaces
Jacques Lacan	Seminars
Bruno Latour	A Cautious Prometheus: a Few Steps Towards a Philosophy of Design with Special Attention to Peter Sloterdijk
Jean-François Lyotard	Libidinal Economy
Marshall McLuhan	
Jean-Luc Nancy	The Sublime Offering
Jacques Rancière	The Emancipated Spectator
Avital Ronell	
Peter Sloterdijk	Airquakes, from Spheres III Foam
	Forward to the Theory of Spheres
	Geometry in the Colossal: the project of Metaphysical Globalization
	Spheres Theory Talking to myself about the poetics of space
Cornel West	http://www.cornelwest.com/
	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zwmum5_ofU
Slavoj Zizek	The Thing from Inner Space

Reference to contemporary philosophy is common in many architectural thesis programmes – most are familiar with references to the 'folds' or 'rhizome' of Deleuze, etc. Less familiar, perhaps, are the texts by Friedrich Kittler that connect the history of technology with current media issues – 'media theory'. And while the three-volume work *Spheres*, by Peter Sloterdijk remains untranslated from the German, various chapters are available, and his writing addresses architecture directly, if in an idiosyncratic manner. This seminar gives the students access to a broad range of discourses in philosophical texts. Peter Sloterdijk, for example has written of the significance of the Crystal Palace by William Paxton, placing an emphasis that may or may not be reflected in contemporary architectural discourse. Advanced research will progress from annotating to grasping major themes and thinkers in philosophy and its history.

End of Term Submission:
Because contemporary 'media philosophy' relies on visuals, students may choose to include a set of diagrammes, graphs, and schemas in their final project. The final submission may include a proportion of such images accompanying a series of short essays, preferably 5 graphic diagrammes along with approximately 1000 words of short texts with titles – thus a sample format might be 5 diagrammes captioned with 200 word paragraphs.

Outline of weekly events: Readings will be posted digitally, supplemented with hard copies and books.
Week 1 Introduction and discussion
Week 2 Seminar: Media Philosophy Video Excerpt and Seminar
Week 3 Video Excerpt- Lacan, Sloterdijk, and Seminar presentations
Week 4 Seminar Kittler, Sloterdijk, McLuhan, Innis Seminar presentations
Week 5 Seminar presentations
Week 6 Possibilities for Projects Presentations Seminar
Week 7 Seminar presentations
Week 8 Seminar presentations
Week 9 Seminar presentations
Week 10 Seminar presentations
Week 11, 12 Preliminary Project Presentation Seminar

COURSE EVALUATION Scheme: Late submissions may have marks deducted if submitted after the deadline.
20% Lead seminar presentation of selected readings.
10% Class participation in weekly seminar discussion.
10% Questions prepared ahead of Weekly Reading
10% Presentation of issues addressed in Final Project, relating to thesis topic, which may include abstract, table of contents, selected research and authored images: diagrammes, graphs, and text outline, annotated bibliography.
50% Final Presentation and Project Submission
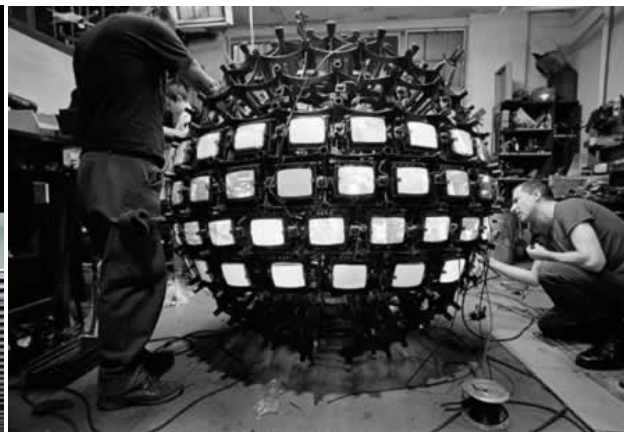
OMA RAK   Jonathan Schipper interactivearchitecture.org   *Roman d'Alexandre,* 1290 *Alexander Exploring Underwater,* unknown artist, northern France, 1290s. From *Romance of Alexander* (*Roman d'Alexandre*). Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett. Ms. 78 C 1, fol. 67. Photo: Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz / Art Resource, NY