



FWC

Refugee camp for the first world citizens

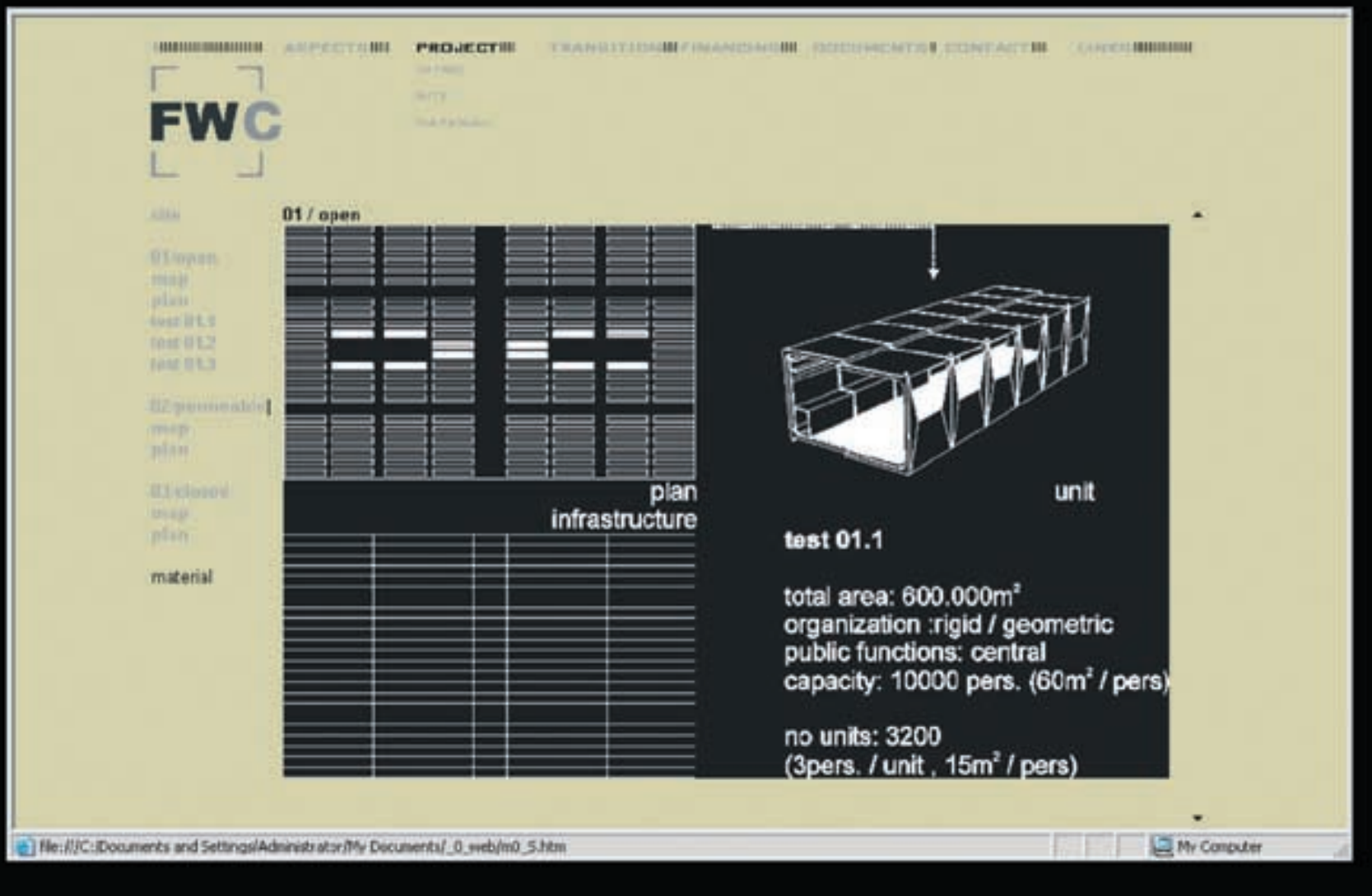
Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens takes the camp as a biopolitical paradigm for the contemporary West (Giorgio Agamben). The camp is a state of exception, a state of emergency upon which the entire political and legal system of the First World is built. The camp is always a parallel system, literally a 'para'-system, an exterritorialized site where the usual legal system does not apply. And yet, exactly as such, it is a place or even a non-place to which the regular legal system can turn any time.

Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens deals with the general state of humanism and humanitarianism in the First World societies. Refugee camps are by-products of conflicts in the contemporary world; as such, they can be predicted and projected, which has never been the case in the past. The world politics and the ideology of the First World are military rather than humanistically oriented.

Two main features of existing refugee

camps are underlined by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): *temporariness* and *isolation*. Because of the general political and humanitarian attitude that refugees should return to their homes as soon as possible, refugee camps

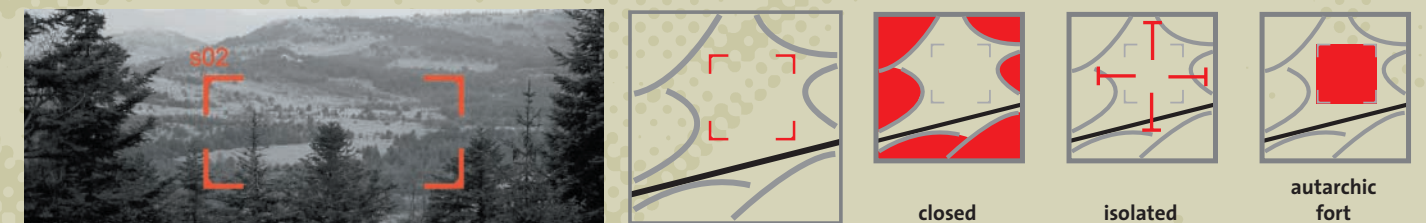
are understood as temporary settlements. The provisional nature of the facilities results in a low quality of life that often does not even meet minimal living standards. But it matches the image of the refugee, usually seen as a poor, desperate, exhausted,



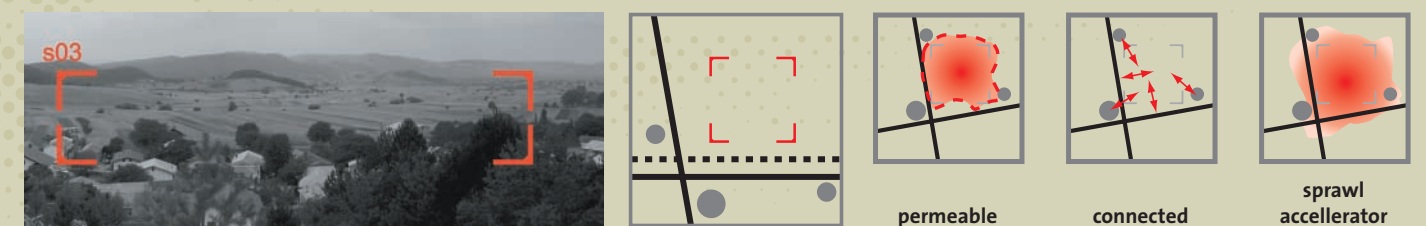
Site configurations for the *Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens* are studied in three possible scenarios, named after the location-based process of integration with the local environment: **open**, **closed**, and **permeable**. All three scenarios have historical models of rules for transforming mainly military camps into settlements. The real spatial propositions are chosen as possible locations for the scenarios, which have been previously defined according to the **plan** for the predicted **integration** with the local communities and environment, the **spatial character** defined by the topography and physical accessibility, and the camp's **spatial performance** when established.



The **open scenario** [s01] is situated in vacant territory, but all major infrastructure is present in the immediate vicinity. The **open** integration process suggests unpredictable growth of the camp. Any connection with the neighbouring infrastructure, enabled by its **accessible** spatial character, is possible. In the final stage of the **s01 camp's** development, it functions as a **network node** similar to the role played by the dispersed neighbouring settlements in the area.



The **closed scenario** [s02] is situated in a territory with clearly defined natural borders and limited connections to the infrastructure. The **closed** integration process mainly suggests integration with the natural environment due to the growth of the camp within its defined borders. Its **isolated** spatial character thwarts connections to infrastructure. In the final stage of the **s02 camp's** development, it functions as an **autarchic fort** almost without any physical connection with the neighbouring environment.



The **permeable scenario** [s03] is situated in an open territory in-between settlements. The **permeable** integration process suggests the borders be prepared for integration processes in the immediate future. The prediction is reinforced by the territory's **connected** spatial character. In the final stage of the **s03 camp's** development, it functions as a **sprawl accelerator** or even a generator of a new physical core of the joint settlements.

deprived person from the Second or the Third World, usually a child, a woman, or an older person. A refugee is an exotic creature reduced to the level of 'bare life', a life without form and value.

Isolation of camps is recommended by UNHCR in order to avoid possible tensions between refugees and local population. Refugee camps are improvised settlements, with a strong signature of impermanence. Their makeshift quality causes constant tension between the local environment and the refugees. The environment reacts negatively to temporary settlements. Refugees are seen as 'troublemakers', undesirable aliens that should be kept separate from the locals.

Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens elaborates a refugee camp situation for individuals from the First World. It is the first settlement that is ready to accept possible refugees from the most developed areas of the world. It is conceptualised as a **network node** that generates integration and interaction between refugees and local people.

Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens is a prototype that can be applied anywhere. The sites shown on the facing page are in Slovenia. The Slovenian government advertises the country as 'safe and peaceful' and stresses that it does not feature on

the map of possible terrorist attacks. This makes Slovenia a suitable location for refugee camps for First World citizens.

In janus, we present the spatial dimensions of the *Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens* project as a response to the capsular-civilization-originated directions for dealing with spatial issues as exclusively strategic-economic-technical issues. A capsule is an inverted artificial world. De Cauter defines it as a device that creates an artificial ambience that minimizes communication with 'outside' by forming its own time-space, a closed-off (artificial) environment... The capsule abolishes the public sphere. In the *Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens*, the notion of a refugee camp as a disconnected and isolated place that depends on external humanitarianism is shifted to that of a connected, involved, and self-sustainable settlement.

Other dimensions of the project include:

- political aspects (increasing the security of citizens, defending strategic political and economical interests in the areas of refugee camps);
- economic aspects (developing modes of a legal internal camp economy in order to reduce dependence of the camp on outside help and counteract the illegal

- economy /smuggling, prostitution, drugs, etc.);
- cultural and educational aspects (targeted programme of integration in order to reduce possible tensions between refugees and local people, learning the local language and culture);
- and religious aspects (establishing of a multiconfessional unit).

FIRST WORLD CAMP

is a platform for artistic research into the demilitarisation of capsular societies initiated by Emil Hrvatin and Peter _enk. FWC research focuses on refugee camps, military bases, gated communities, and other modes of capsularity. The *Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens* is the first project of the FWC platform.

See more about the *Refugee Camp for the First World Citizens* on www.fwc.si.