

# From the WTC to the CTW

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There have been more and more references to a mysterious group known as the WTO since the Five Codes were published. Despite mantra-like denials by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), everything suggests that the WTO is linked with the building of the New York Center for Terror Investigation and Security (CTW) – the largest US building project since the Pentagon. An obscure WTO manifesto is circulating on the internet, illegal poster campaigns are plastered all over New York. Some of them are assuming a pentagonal conspiracy ...

## WTO MANIFESTO

1A. The WTO is committed to an ethic of refraining to act: not doing nothing, but rather not doing. The problems of our day derive from too much, rather than too little. Here not even an economy of declining growth can change anything.

1B. Wasting one's talent is the last chance for practising resistance in life: self-non-realization, or the refusal to realize potentials – of course to the best ends for an asserted self – and not to transform them into an exhaustible resource. The derelict fields of potential, teeming with unknown flora and fauna, remain untouched (ultimately we are committed to ecology). The fragile balance of current and future identity habitats is retained. So no more overexploitation of the unknown with its excessive mono-management by a culture of expertise! Instead: universal extravagance, without direction, without aims, and most of all without moderation! This means: excessive, universal dilettantism. WTO, the organization of wasted talents, determined not to promote their talents and not to exploit them at all. The organization's highest principle is its own disorganization, and pursuing distraction is the highest organizational principle. Do not create institutes, and above all, do not create institutions!

2A. To anticipate the inevitable failure of any resistance: after paying attention to the culture industry's tenderly distributing hand, the WTO (wasted-talents.org), faced with historical inevitability (precisely in accordance with the Marxist-teleological understanding of history), is embarking on transforming itself into the WTO (wasting-talent.org), and this is organizing the international architecture industry's great waste of talent. This needs conquest, and also no conquest.

2B. The fact that the WTO is not aware of this process explains the threatening success of neo-liberal exploitation logic (but this is old hat).

2C. Anyway, just keep it going ... We should not allow ourselves to be misled by the fact that the name WTO is being retained, partly from habit and partly because: if you've once made a name for yourself ...

## The crux of a certain renunciation of authorship

In a paradoxical loop, the anonymity of the WTO is the source of fame (that cannot be realized), based on the fact that myth has no author (only stories without authors become myths), but it cannot be realized and exploited in terms of social or attention capital (equals "money"). Impregnable narcissism – which indubitably precedes architectural identity – compelled the WTO to scatter

hints intended to help observers to decode the architects' identity. Thus they would have been able to bask in all the fame their nightly pharaonic dream entitled them to. The identity masks that the WTO wore while the CTW was being planned were very striking, and ran counter to the original insistence upon being invisible. The eye details, large as rockets, intensified a paranoid look, and so the cruelty of their calculating smile remained unnoticed. (And anyway the bespectacled architects still looked serious.)

## Commission

The UN Security Council – sometime centre of the global security discourse – shifted to the periphery of global politics because of its obsolete structures and mechanisms. The security vacuum that the UN never could – or didn't want to – fill explains the emergence of the CTW. An edifice had to be created that could turn the pathological collective phenomena triggered by 9/11 into a productive force – in the sense of an organization of existing, but also completely new, economies. The route was defined, the destination unknown. Mourning, fear, rage, but also the fascination exercised by the event – all this offered the range of motives needed to give American society an institution that could create identity, allotting resource status to the post-traumatic assimilation process. CTW scientists and economists devised algorithm-based simulation programmes that made it possible to anticipate future developments. Science responded to the inefficiency of a political discourse based on majority "opinion-" and ideology-driven decisions with counter-models that were effective because they were pragmatic. As presumed, the most reactionary institutions always grant the greatest experimental freedom. But one requirement had always to be met: the flow of information ran exclusively through the DHS! Authors' rights became classified material: history confirms the precarious brotherhood of politics and narcissism... The ticket had been bought, the train could depart.

## Farewell to the entrance

The underground train shoots into the hermetically sealed building like a rocket. The CTW does not have an entrance. It is entered at the centre.

## Triangulation

Triangulation is a diagram of an arrangement of forces that operationalizes its elements' various time-forms, interrupts them, arranges them in cycles and prolongs the present into the future. Threats are potential dangers. The mere possibility of their becoming reality is updated in the event. Prevention is the anticipation of the event. Knowledge of threat ascribes risk values to potentials that define the probability of their occurring. François Ewald once said that calculating a risk meant mastering time and disciplining the future. Triangulation is a technology that transforms the affective force potentials manifested in the event, making them prevention vectors rather than a resource: the flight impulse triggered by the event is anticipated and used; it is a flight forwards: the flight of the triumph of the present over the future...

## Theme park and memorial

Contradicting the conspiratorial character of the Pentagon and outdoing the White House's museum quality, the CTW programme responds to the necessity of politainment by integrating two

largely indistinguishable typologies: the theme park and the memorial. These penetrate the politico-scientifically conceived institution and ensure consensus production that will legitimize democracy.

## Three worlds

The public space of the emergent “popular state” institution is divided into three thematically linked worlds: the “World of Towers”, the “World of Terror” and the “World of Prevention”.

## Let us entertain you

While planning the “World of Terror” a high-ranking Pentagon employee explained that during the war on terror in Afghanistan the forces had built a replica of large sections of the Tora Bora cave system at a secret base. Special units practised storming Osama bin Laden’s headquarters in this military setting. Now that the demon had managed to escape from his cave again, this simulated architecture was going to waste. The interior of terror is now exhibited in a show hall, so that visitors have a chance to pursue the paths of terror from the outside and explore its labyrinthine impasses from the inside. This inclination by the CTW to swallow up other architecture – one could even say the building is cannibalistic by nature – is also expressed in the architectural design of the “World of Towers”: it is devoted to the collapsed twin towers of the World Trade Center (WTC), resurrects them in their old splendour, repeats the disaster and transfers the fragments to eternity.

## WTC trilogy

The 100-times-cloned office floors were unnecessary for the real experience of the WTC, they simply made it possible to gain the height needed to raise the Sky Lobby to its exposed location. In the CTW the WTC now shrinks to its most important components: reception hall and Sky Lobby. Delay mechanisms in the lifts and real-time projects on the inside walls of the panoramic dome surrounding the Sky Lobby ensure perfect simulation and make it possible to forget the towers’ death for the time being. As a CTW inlay, what used to be the world’s tallest building is transformed into interior decoration. The lift doors open to wrest visitors out of their amnesia and reveal a cruel view of Ground Zero. The 9/11 event is frozen, it is in a condition of being permanently brought up to date, it is lived through again and again and again. Repeat is not return ...

## Testament

The CTW paid tribute to its “master”, the WTC, in its morphogenesis. The tomb confronts the definitive form of the twin towers with an indefinable form that cannot be remembered. Its gesture – not shooting impetuously upwards, but idly floating above the ground – accepts the final, undisputed victory of the WTC over Manhattanism, despite the vain efforts of all the Fosters and Libeskind. The two towers could never find eternal rest among their subjects. The CTW was not allowed to fight for its place amid the teeming mass of irrelevant skyscrapers. Instead it chose the location that – already almost forgotten – tries to digest the excrement of the metropolis: Fresh Kills on Staten Island was the dump to end all dumps. New York’s faeces had been unloaded here for years. The WTC ruins were “interred” at the very place that tries to pass off what excessive capitalism and waste addiction secrete day in, day out – the ruins of the building that stood like no other for infinite circulation (by streams of capital). 1.8 million tons of material from the collapsed WTC were examined by FBI officials over 1.7 million hours, fragile clues were made secure and placed in stable object categories: human remains, pieces of evidence, personal items, remains

of the buildings... Chaos gave way to order. Fragments became evidence, relics, and ultimately reliquaries. Fresh Kills became the reservoir the administrators of the emotional economy draw on. A place for disposal became a place of supply.

## Pyramid

Diagrammatic triangulation has become pyramidal. The pyramid as an archetypal monument, in which the transience of the organic was transformed into the conservation of the inorganic, is the symbol of the architects' pharaonic dreams: erecting eternal order. Esoteric forces are at work within it; they create an extra-terrestrial force field that rescinds natural laws and creates a space by preserving personalized order: the mausoleum ... The CTW contains two pyramids, two storehouses: the world's largest database on terrorism, and the crypt where the fragments of the WTC are kept. The database, as a storage facility of immaterial information, does not require the physical protection of thick walls; network redundancies secure inviolability. A filigree glass pyramid is available to the public as an easily accessible connecting port. The crypt, on the other hand, does not use the pyramid's form, but one of its construction principles: metre-thick walls afford protection across the ages for the reliquaries. It would be disastrous to hand the social cravings market for liturgical experiences over to the church-stadium building revivalist preachers alone. The knowledge that 9/11 has the potential of a cultural foundation experience inherent in it has created an American place of pilgrimage where architectural details, transcendentalized into the form of shrines, can develop their sociogenetic power.

## The crypt

The crypt, self-sinking through the dead weight of 180,000 tons of reinforced concrete, is an allegory of a long-drawn-out assimilation process scheduled to end in the year 4000. If architecture means containment, i.e. the act of organizing holding conditions, this makes the inherent connection of architecture and sacrifice the outlawed element that cannot be contained. This complicity produced the wasteful architects of the pyramids, which cost countless human lives. The archaic element of sacrifice served to master a fate now known as contingency management. The CTW as a virtuous building is both sacrifice and sacrificial altar; as a technical response to the challenge of the Islamic culture of martyrdom it rescues its visitors at the price of its own annihilation. What remains is a ruin made up of evacuation spaces and escape routes: exit architecture ...