

Bureaucratic Recipes

Drew Austin

Problem

Individuals who live in large cities encounter an array of problems that necessitate bureaucratic interactions with local government agencies. These processes are frequently opaque as well as overwhelming, characterized by a wide variance in complexity and user-friendliness. Some are sanctioned processes while others are more activist in nature. When someone initiates a new effort to resolve an issue by interacting with their local government, they do not necessarily benefit from the knowledge accumulated by those who have done the same previously.

Participants

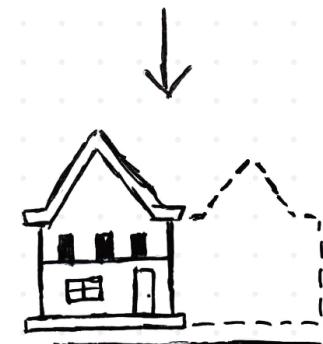
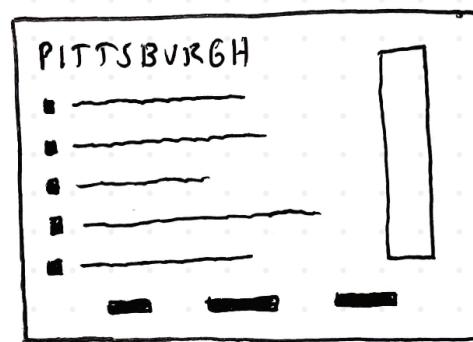
Individuals who live in cities, businesses and institutions based in cities, civil servants who facilitate the provision of local services, elected officials

Infrastructure

Website and database for accessing and submitting bureaucratic recipes, marketing resources for participating localities, engineering resources for lightweight maintenance of the product

Pattern

Create an online, open-source repository for interactions with local governments and institutions, listing familiar problems alongside repeatable solutions—bureaucratic “recipes.” This repository would be accessible via an unrestricted website, advertised by relevant local governments, and maintained with public funding, potentially as a centralized platform that lets users filter results by city. The site would present users with an intuitive interface, encouraging broad participation among both categories of users: those searching for information and those submitting their own knowledge.



Network Cities

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Problem

From social life to consumption to work, the internet has decoupled facets of everyday life from their physical foundations for large numbers of people, but in many ways we still live as though this transition hasn't happened yet. Residing in a particular place does not define life as comprehensively as it once did, and local conditions may even act as constraints upon the new ways of living that technology has made available. We must continue learning to embrace this dual nature of life in a globally connected age, enjoying the benefits of locally grounded existence while taking advantage of the opportunities that emerge when physical distance no longer inhibits many activities.

Participants

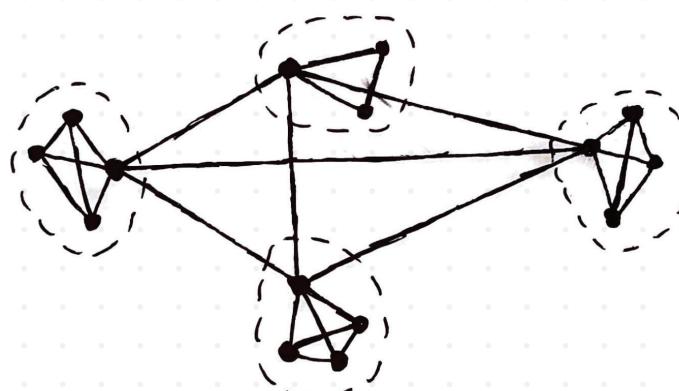
Existing inhabitants of urban and rural environments, internet users, local and national governments

Infrastructure

Digital communication networks, physical enclaves in or near established population centers, new citizenship norms

Pattern

As digital infrastructure fosters the emergence of new social arrangements, these can take the shape of distributed "network cities" that may share physical space in more fluid and ephemeral ways, using the existing built environment along with new structures that support a more mobile populace, all coordinated online. One such experiment is Cabin,¹ a network city for a citizenry "who span the globe and come together to colive and create in nature." The members or "citizens" of this distributed city possess "passports" that give them access to coliving and residencies at Cabin neighborhoods, which will proliferate "across a global network of neighborhoods deeply embedded in their natural environment." These urban social forms still occupy physical space, but in new and more flexible ways.



1. creators.mirror.xyz/zHox-AfvHbX0Q2JxAncfwIAmOXRy7BzYafhZNlvHnmM