

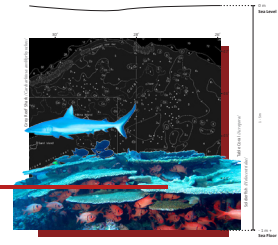
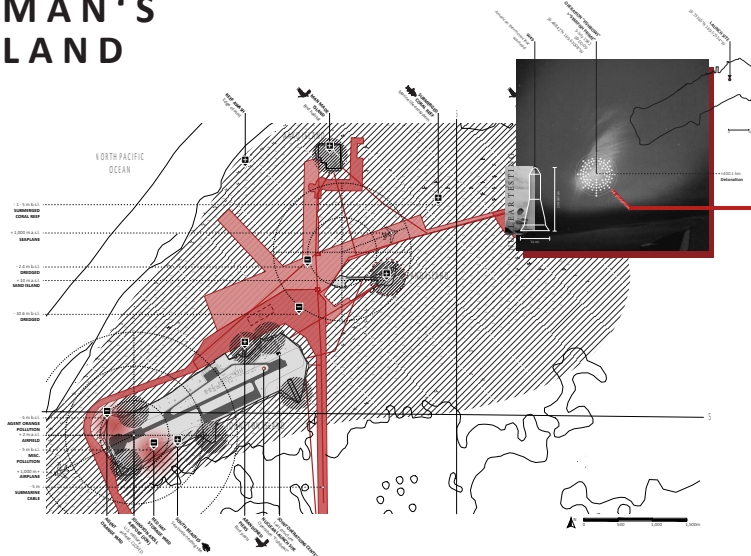
No Man's Land: The American Military Landscape as the New American Park

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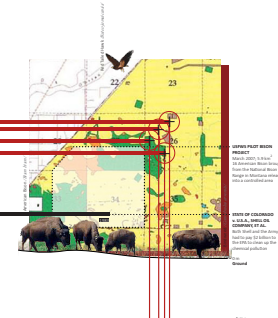
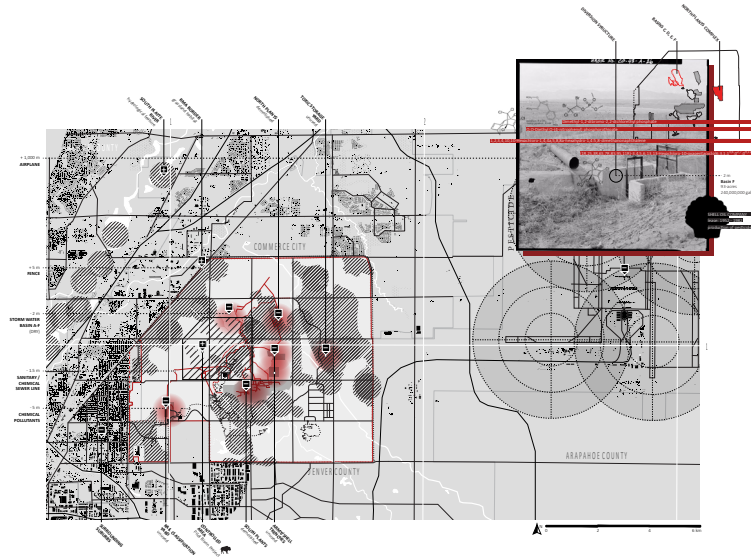
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Military landscapes are often seen as ecologically desolate territories with harsh and barren conditions. Yet, there is growing evidence that these volatile lands are finding a second life as animal refuges, born out of necessity under the growing effects of the Anthropocene and sixth wave of mass extinction. It is the very nature of the military landscape - weaponized, contaminated, protected - that deters regular human activity and allows this new, damaged Nature to appear. These new cyborg landscapes, where technology meets ecology, tell a story of a post-human future where new ecological relationships are formed between the military pollutants and the animals that inhabit the land. NO MAN'S LAND presents an analysis at two scales: the global and the local. At the global scale, an atlas provides a catalogue of sites and site conditions to offer evidence of this phenomenon. Focus then turns to the United States in recognition of their \$598.5 billion military-industrial complex and their landscapes that places them at the forefront of the local investigation. At this scale, 3 case studies are presented to further illustrate these new complex relationships more intimately: Johnston Atoll, unincorporated territory (closed/abandoned); Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Denver (closed/reused); and Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba (active conflict). Investigative mapping and speculation puts into sharper focus the tension between human, animal, and technology. The thesis argues to re-introduce these territories back into the American vernacular as the "involuntary park" - a kind of post-humanist National Park™. Through a set of design guidelines, an overall approach to re-engage these landscapes is recommended that focuses on public engagement under the guise of "voluntourism." By leveraging human actions, a series of interventions can be implemented that further facilitate animal occupation. The thesis aims to interrogate the conflicting nature of these landscapes and question their future in an increasingly anthropocentric world.

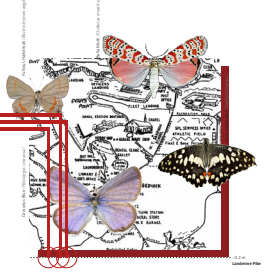
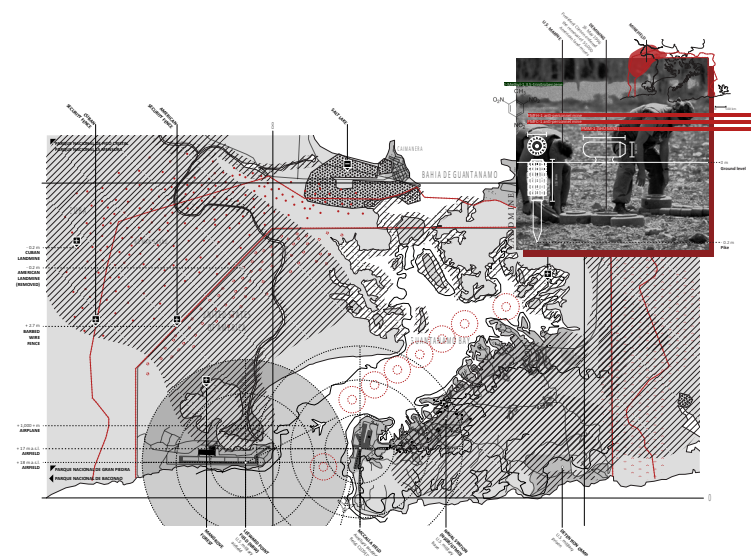
NO MAN'S LAND



JOHNSTON
ATOLL
AIRFIELD



ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
ARSENAL
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE



GUANTANAMO
BAY
NAVAL
BASE