

RUINS & DECAY

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Transgression

Transgression opens the door into what lies beyond the limits usually observed, but it maintains these limits just the same. Transgression is complementary to the profane world, exceeding its limits but not destroying it.

-Georges Bataille, Eroticism





Architecture reflected these deep feelings (death, phase decomposition): putrefying buildings were seen as unacceptable, but dry white ruins afforded decency and respectability.

-Bernard Tschumi

By decaying, the Villa Savoye made the passage of time visible and thus transgressed the taboo of modernism.

-Kari Jormakka





The house has, itself, become a giant sarcophagus, a mausoleum containing (but also concealing, as mausoleums do) the lives and memories of all the people who once lived there.

Andrew Graham-Dixon





It appears that there is a certain point in the mind wherefrom life and death, reality and imaginary, past and future, the communicable and the incommunicable cease to be perceived in a contradictory way.

-André Breton, The Second Manifesto

eROTiCism

Architecture is the ultimate erotic object, because an architectural act, brought to the level of excess, is the only way to reveal both the traces of history and its own immediate experiential truth.

-Bernard Tschumi











Death is tolerated only when the bones are white: if architects cannot succeed in their quest for „healthy and virile, active and useful, ethical and happy“ people and houses.

-Bernard Tschumi (& Adolf Loos)







„Architecture is only art in which the great struggle between the will of the spirit and the necessity of nature issues into real peace, in which the soul in its upward striving and nature in its gravity are held in balance.“ In the ruin, nature begins to have upper hand: the „brute, downward-dragging, corroding, crumbling power“ produces a new form, „entirely meaningful, comprehensible, differentiated.“

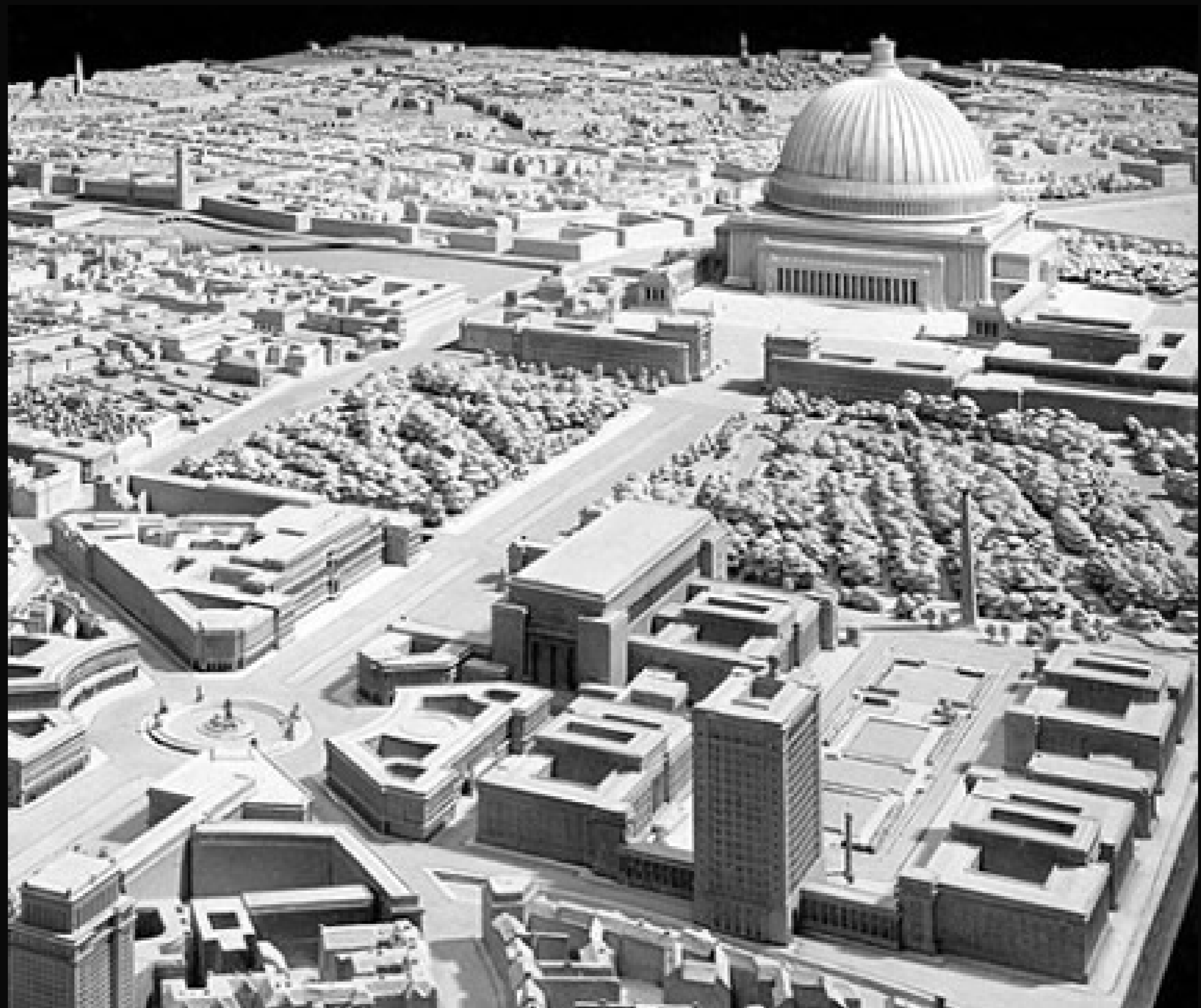
-Georg Simmel





It was inconceivable that a hunk of rusting metal could one day inspire heroic thoughts like the monuments of the past Hitler so admired. By using special materials, or by obeying certain laws of statics, one might be able to build structures which, after hundreds, or as we fondly believed, thousands of years, would more or less resemble our Roman models.

-Albert Speer



Where imagined future ruins were once the objects of metaphysical fancy or hubristic imperial dreams, the modern ruin is always, to some degree, a palpable, all-too-real remnant of the future.

-Brian Dillon



Architecture is atemporal by its very nature and its essence is to cancel time by setting up a permanent structure.

-Georges Bataille







Does an interpretation of ruins hold the key to the future of architecture?

The future is but the obsolete in reverse.

-Vladimir Nabokov





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