

Borderlinedisorder

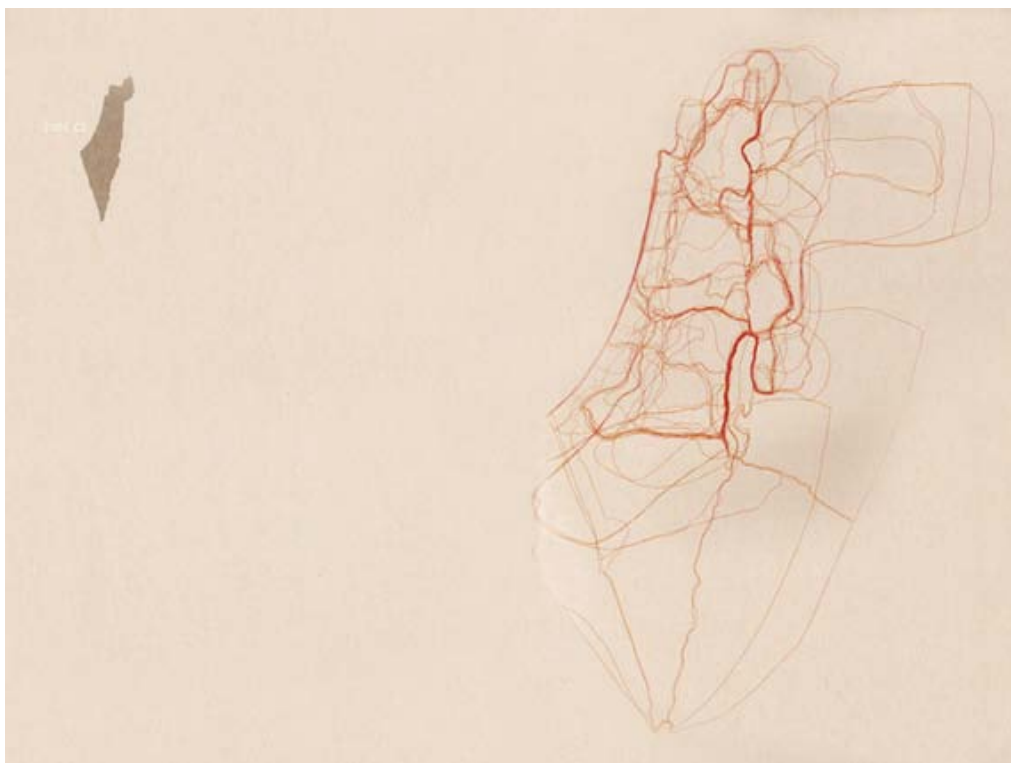
Sabotaged by visionism and revisionism to the endspace of no contours, the architecture of Zionism is left to re-enact its proper object in a theory of the visible.

Such a theory – if it hopes to see anything at all – must cut through rhetorical layers and knotted narratives in order to cut out the warped shapes of things constructed. Too much tracing may indeed flatten the political, drain the redemptive and ground the cultural, but it shows up stains and blotches, it depicts distinctive patterns, and it merges formative diagrams of buildings, settlements, towns, suburban sprawls, infrastructural matrices, or any other territorial markers, onto borderline syndromes.

Zionism is a case of particular interest because it practices architecture to the extreme; it compensates for historical lacuna by hyper-planning; it denies stable form by maintaining an open-ended process of morphing; it draws maps of masquerade over and over again to measure the vulnerability and negotiability of spaces; all in all, it postpones the mirror-phase, the moment of the self-recognized body, by consistently deforming and dismembering its own organs.

The Intricacy of Israel's internal and external boundaries at the moment, as well as the designed formlessness of its Post-Brutalist architecture, are already inscribed at the scene of origin staged by the founders of Zionism at the turn of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th. Their vision of Return (to Geography and to History) outlined an Arcadian Utopia, a Garden-

State instantly naturalized amidst Biblical landscapes and constantly suspended in a mode of change, growth and uncertainty. The image of organy, of quasi-modo softness, elasticity and porosity – embalmed in the master-plans of dozens of new towns and hundreds of new rural settlements – authenticated, as it were, the texture of homeland and illustrated figuratively the taking place of place making.



What is next then? What would be the shape of things to come? Could the Israeli and the Palestinian territories – already approaching world record densities – remain as they are: frontiers without borders? Would the viscous Garden-State of yesterday's nationalism finally become the solid City-State of tomorrow's globalism – imploding rather than exploding?