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WRAPPED VENDOR STALLS – Mumbai

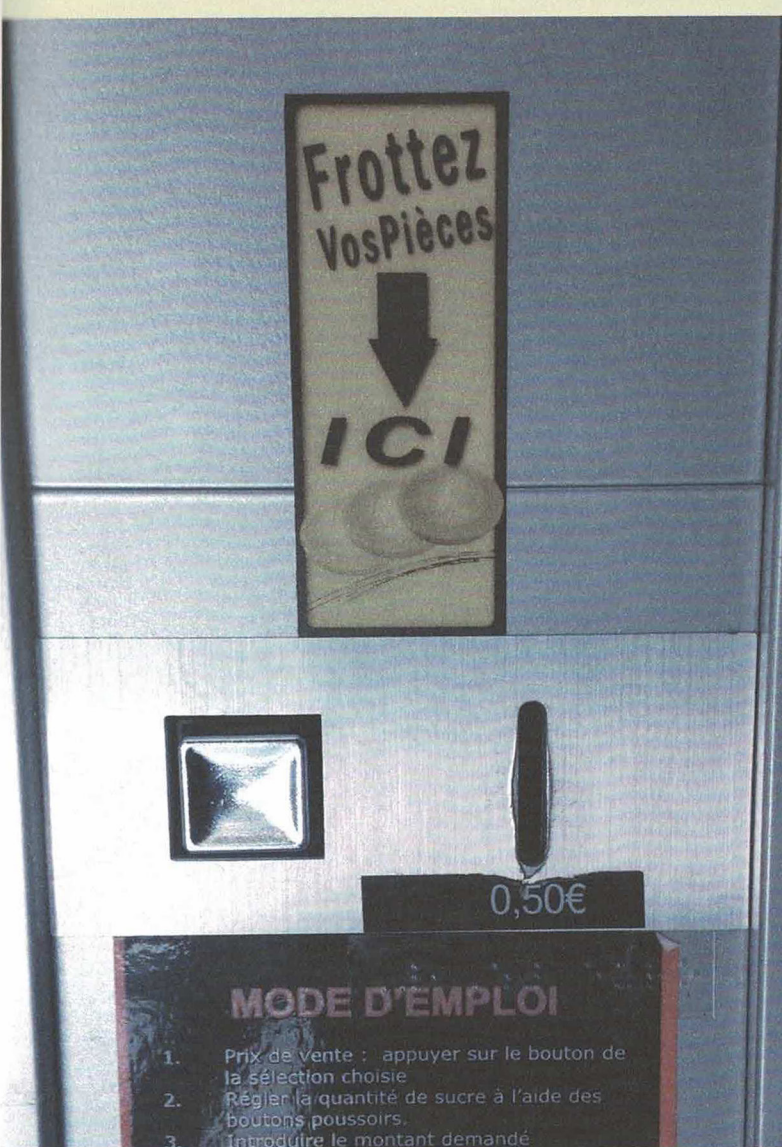
Mumbai is a great amalgamation of formal and informal activities that symbolically combine to make the city function. Competition for just about everything is fierce. Many Mumbai residents are self-employed as street vendors. Some have little well-built, permanent stands that they can lock up at night. Poorer vendors, however, have this luxury. They put their goods on blankets or tarps right on the edge of the sidewalk. Or, when buildings cover the sidewalk, they place them directly in the street. The smallest of these sidewalk shops consisted of a heavily soiled towel or six "D" batteries for sale. This would be easy for the vendor to pack up and carry home but many of the sidewalk stores have larger inventories. Carrying those in Mumbai's overcrowded buses and trains, where one literally has to juggle, is a sequence and contest just to get on and off, isn't an option. Remarkably, much of the inventory is wrapped up often in blue tarps or clear plastic with rope or string and left on the sidewalk. This has two functions: the vendor doesn't have to carry the material home and it saves his or her spot for the next day. The situation is highly respected and the wrapped vendor stalls are left alone. They are found in all parts of the city, from the desperately poor incremental settlements to the upper middle-class high rise neighborhoods. These photos were taken in 2008.



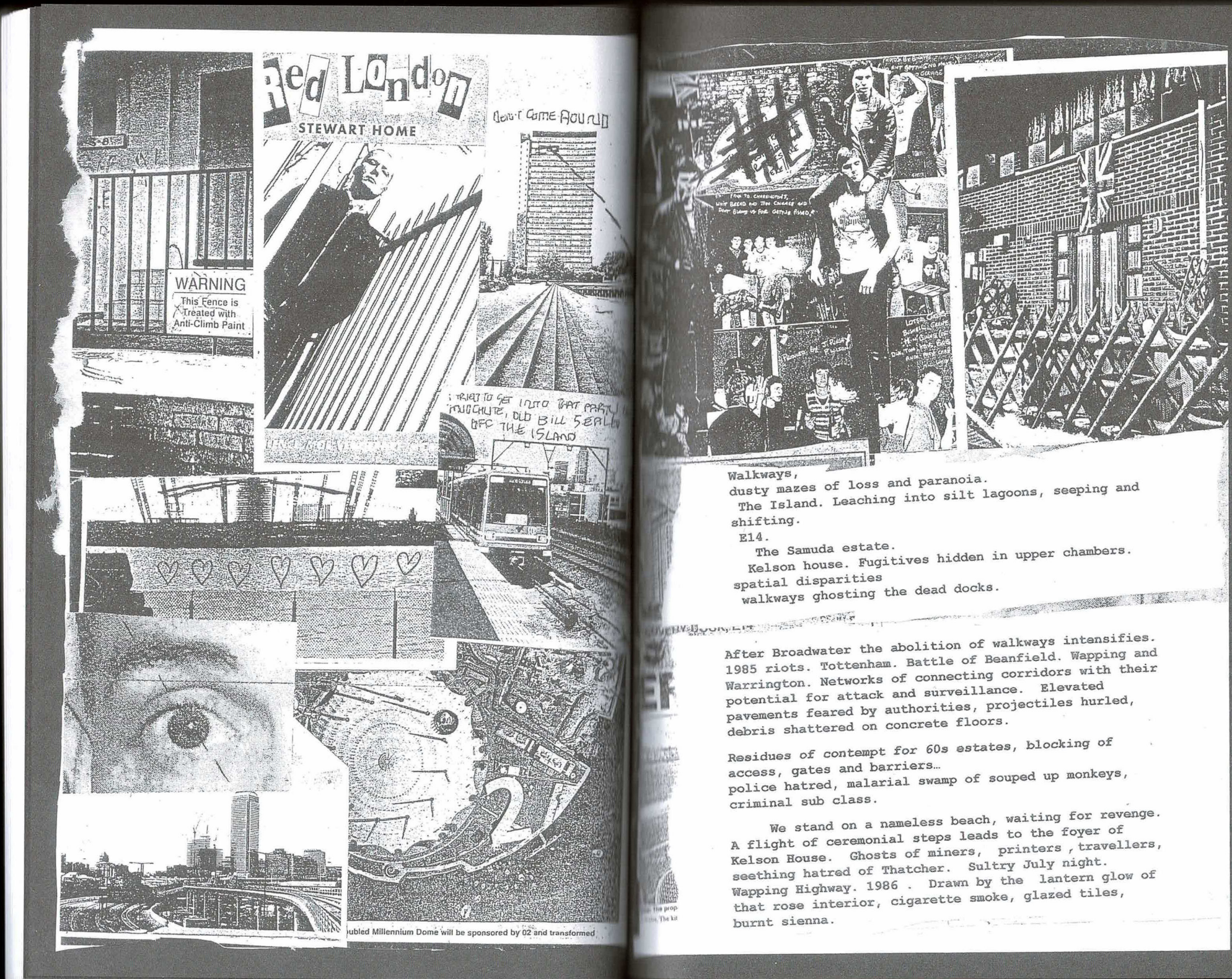
Wrapped Vendor Stalls – Mumbai 117

FROTTEMENT

La machine à café est aujourd'hui un dispositif mondial. Espaces de travail et espaces publics regorgent de ces engins qui produisent du « café » du « thé » et du « cacao » à partir de substances non identifiées et d'eau chaude. C'est une véritable boîte noire : nul ne sait vraiment quel est le système économique entre le fournisseur qui met à disposition cet engin et l'entreprise ou la municipalité qui l'accueille ; nul ne veut vraiment découvrir à partir de quoi les boissons turquoises sont faites. Mais son système de paiement, demeure également mystérieux. Pourquoi certaines pièces semblent-elles systématiquement refusées alors que d'autres sont acceptées ? Parce que la machine n'a plus de monnaie, parce que les pièces sont faussées ? En ce matin, pas très réveillé, je me suis vu offrir une réponse : pour que les pièces soient d'argent avalées, il suffit de les frotter contre la machine, dans une zone jaune identifiée par une grosse flèche noire. S'agit-il de magnétisme ? En quoi est faite cette zone propre à rendre les pièces efficaces ? Parfois, il faut garder les mystères intacts et, plutôt que d'ouvrir la boîte noire, rester en surface.

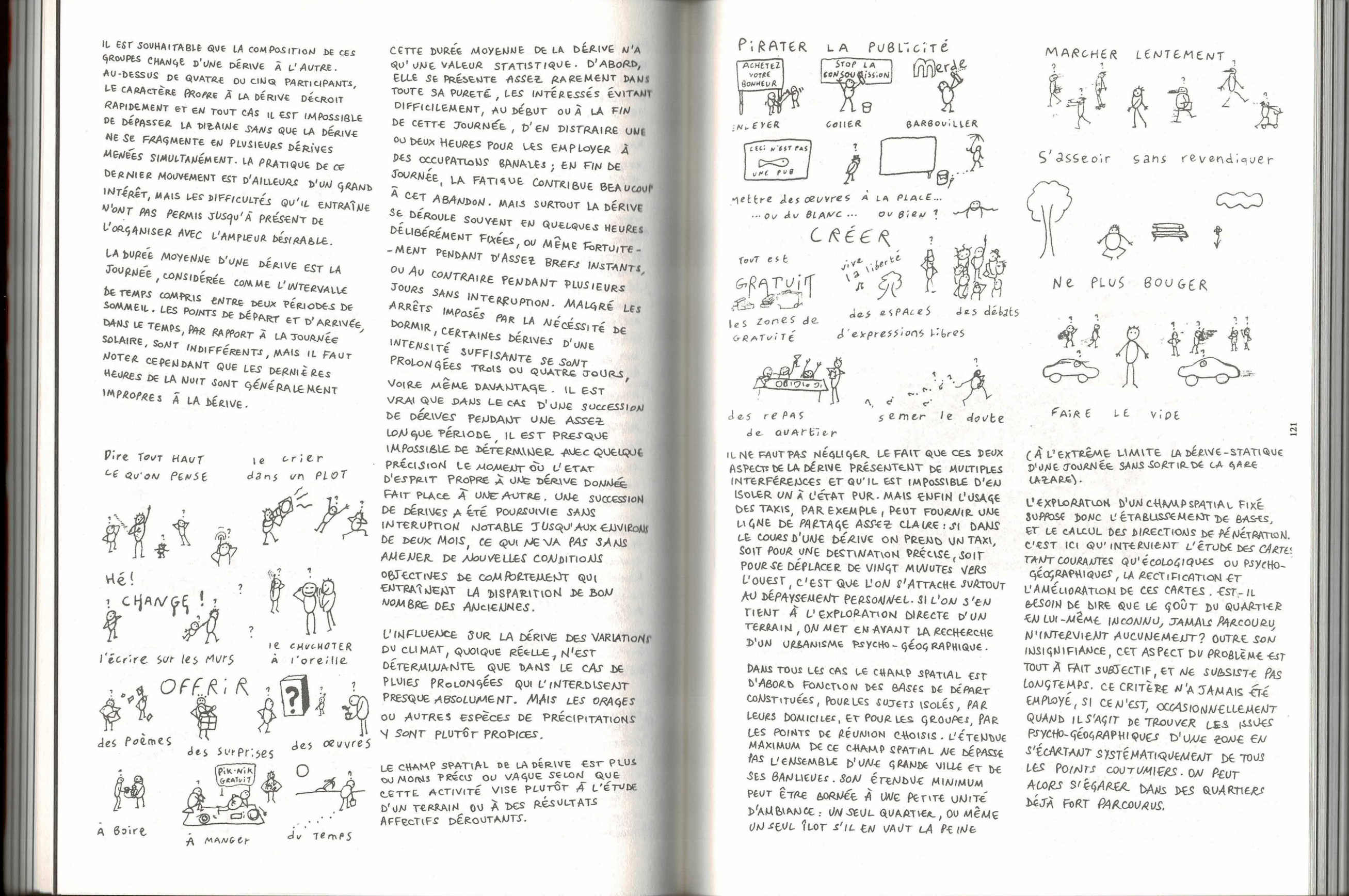


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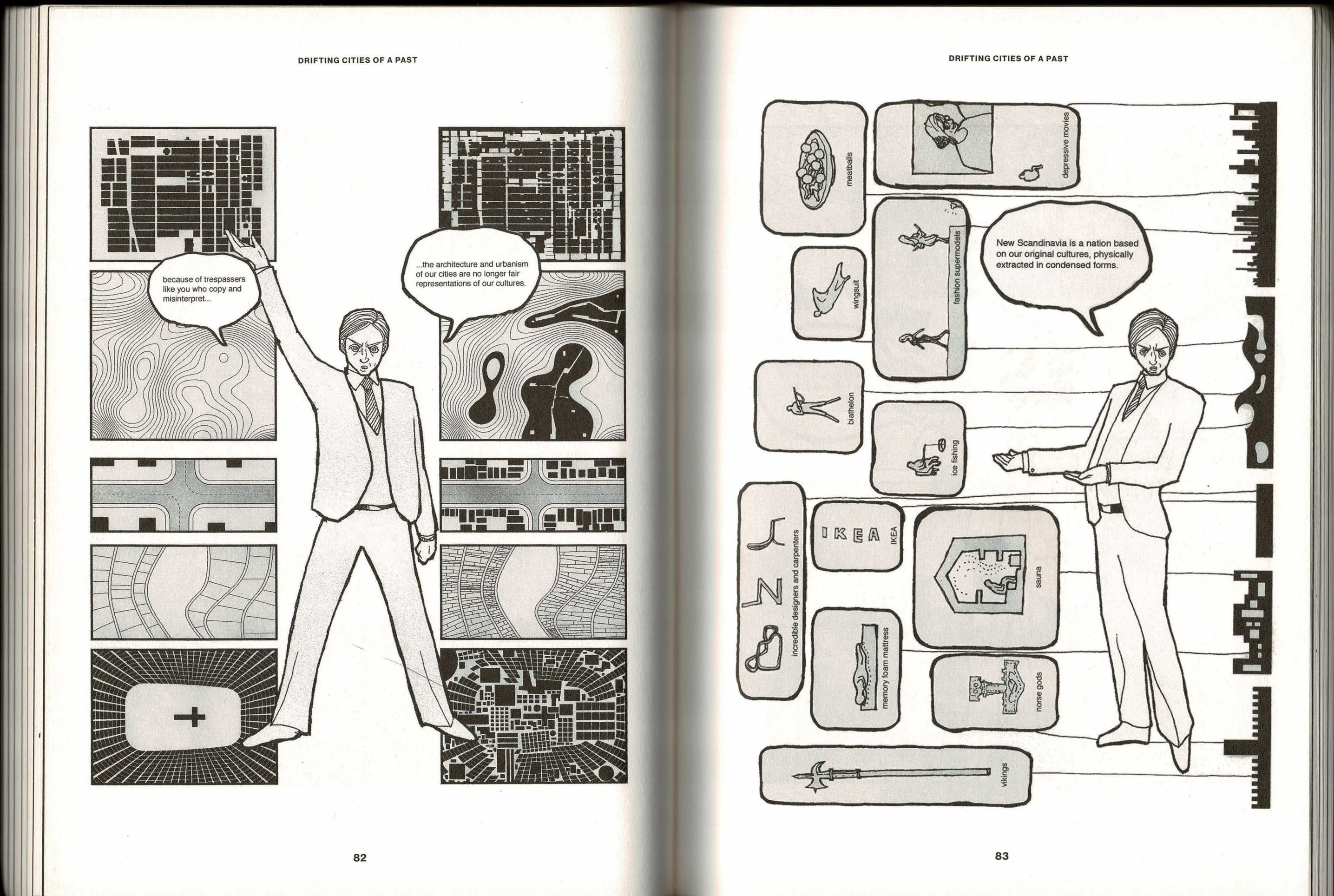


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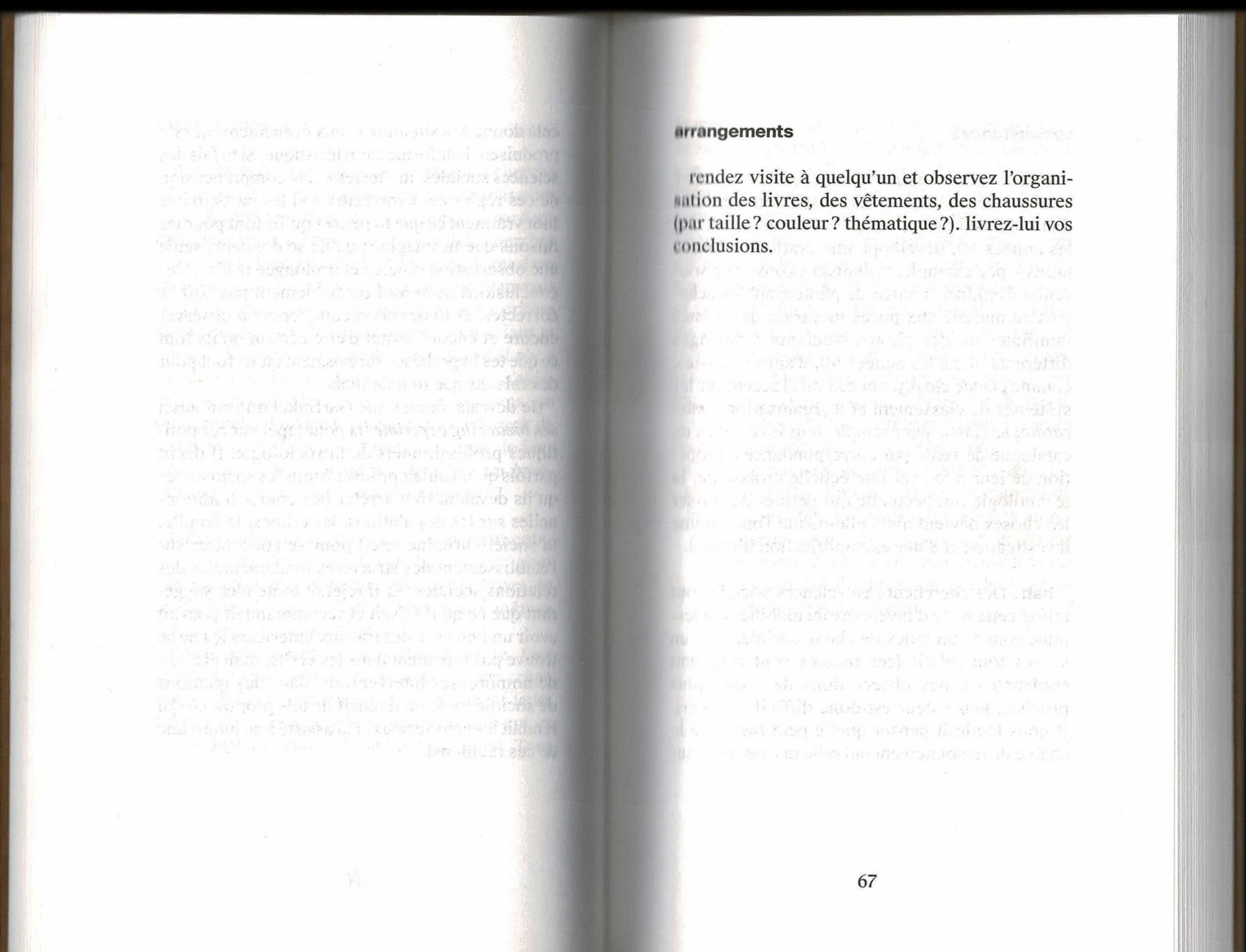
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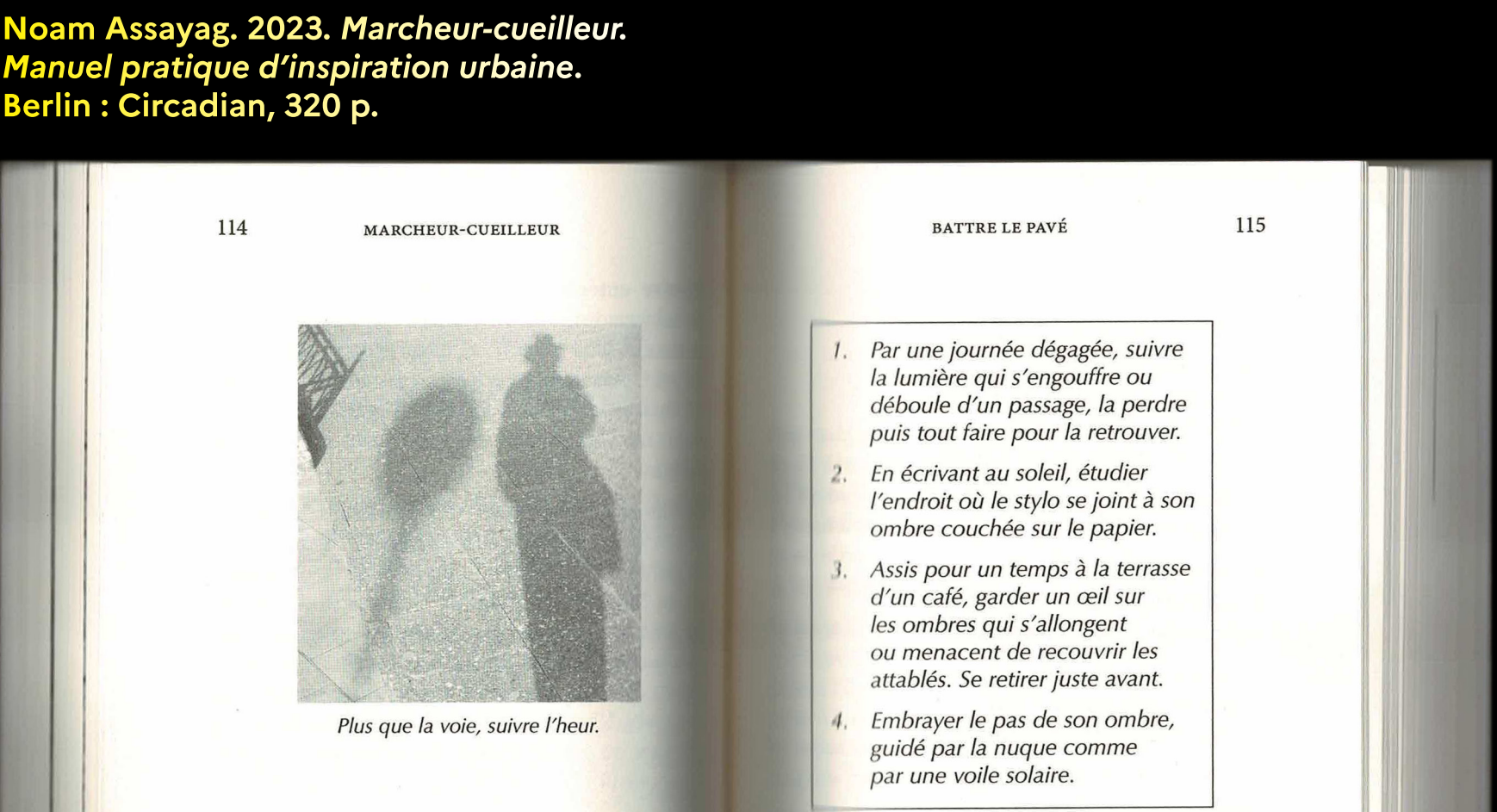
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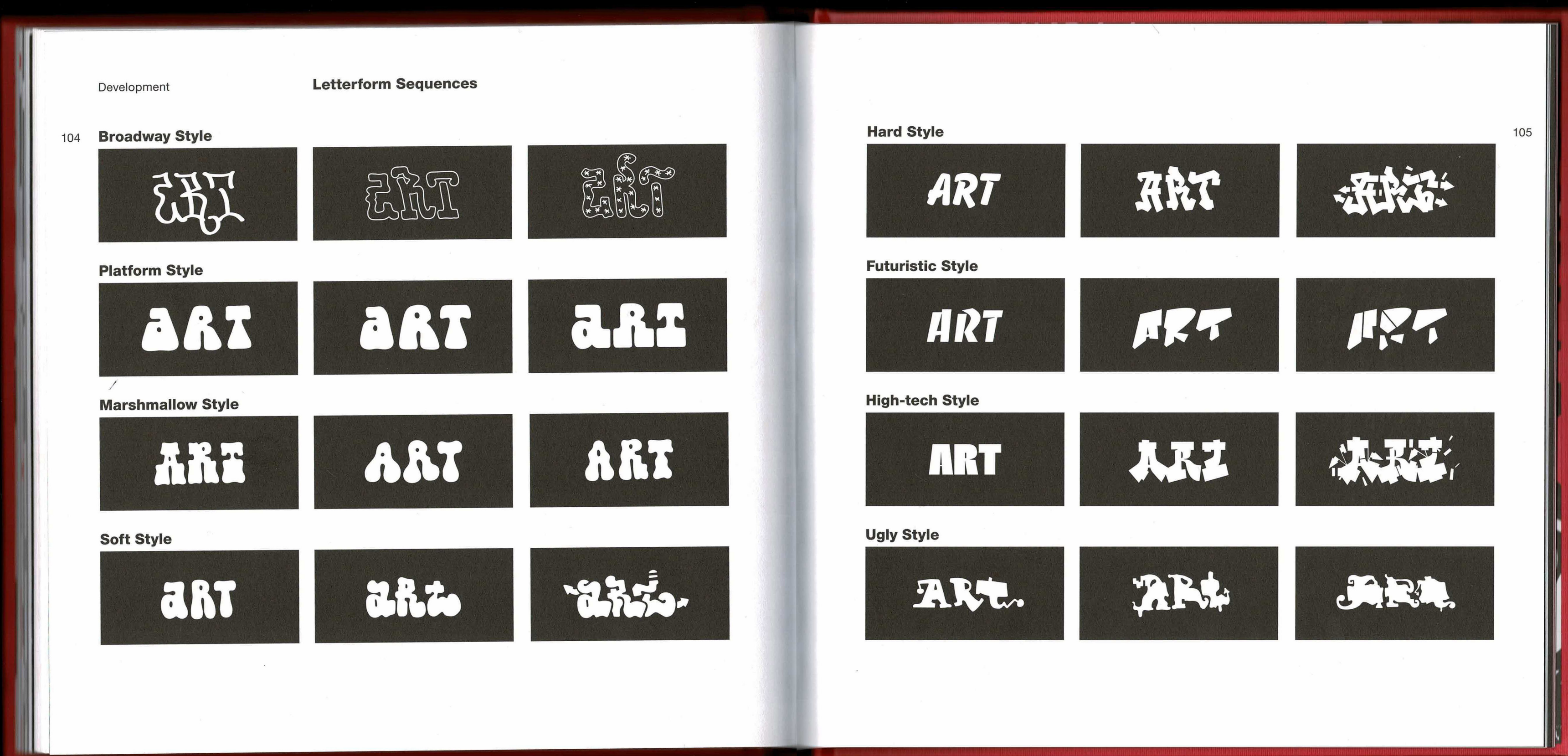


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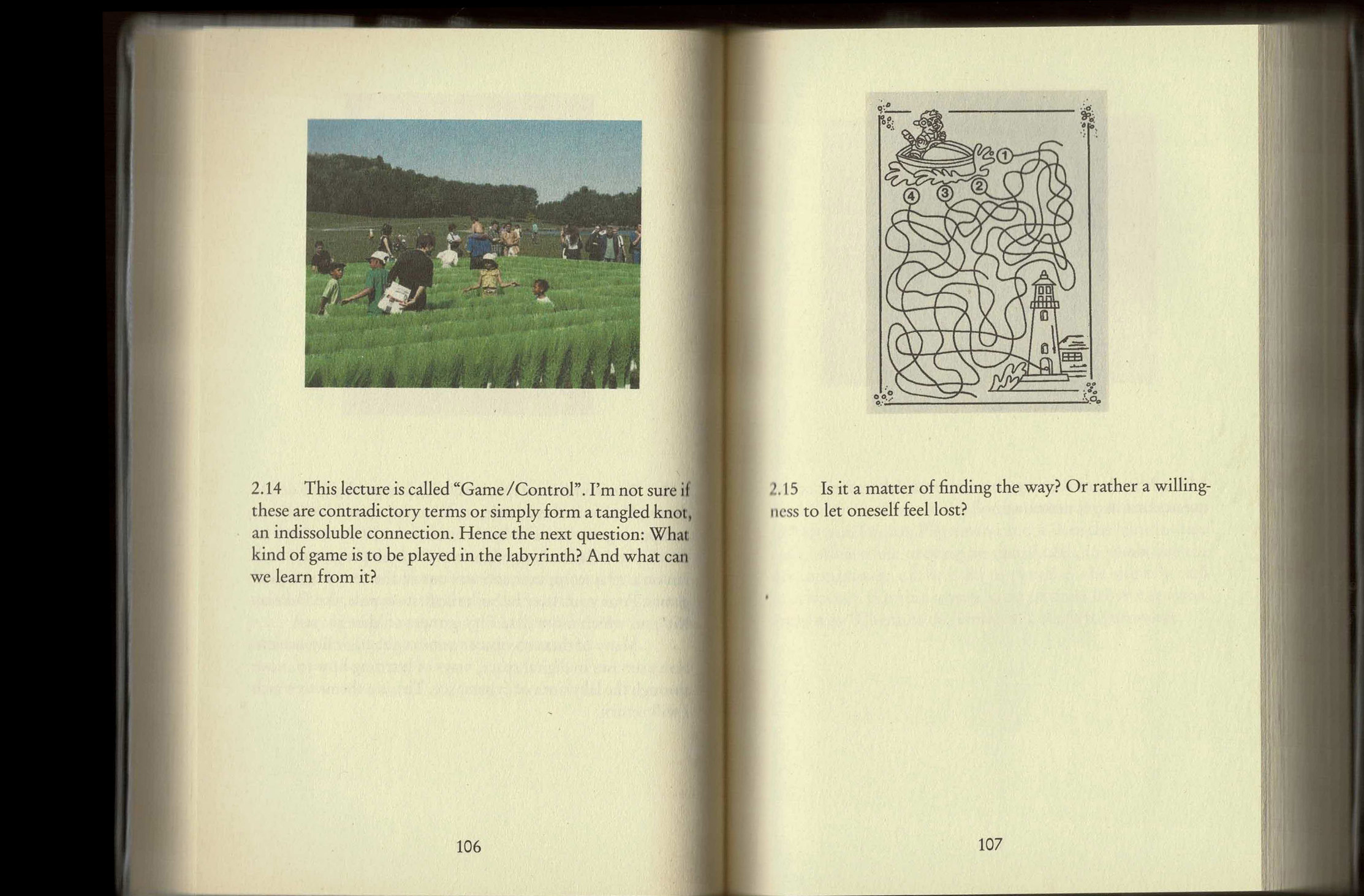
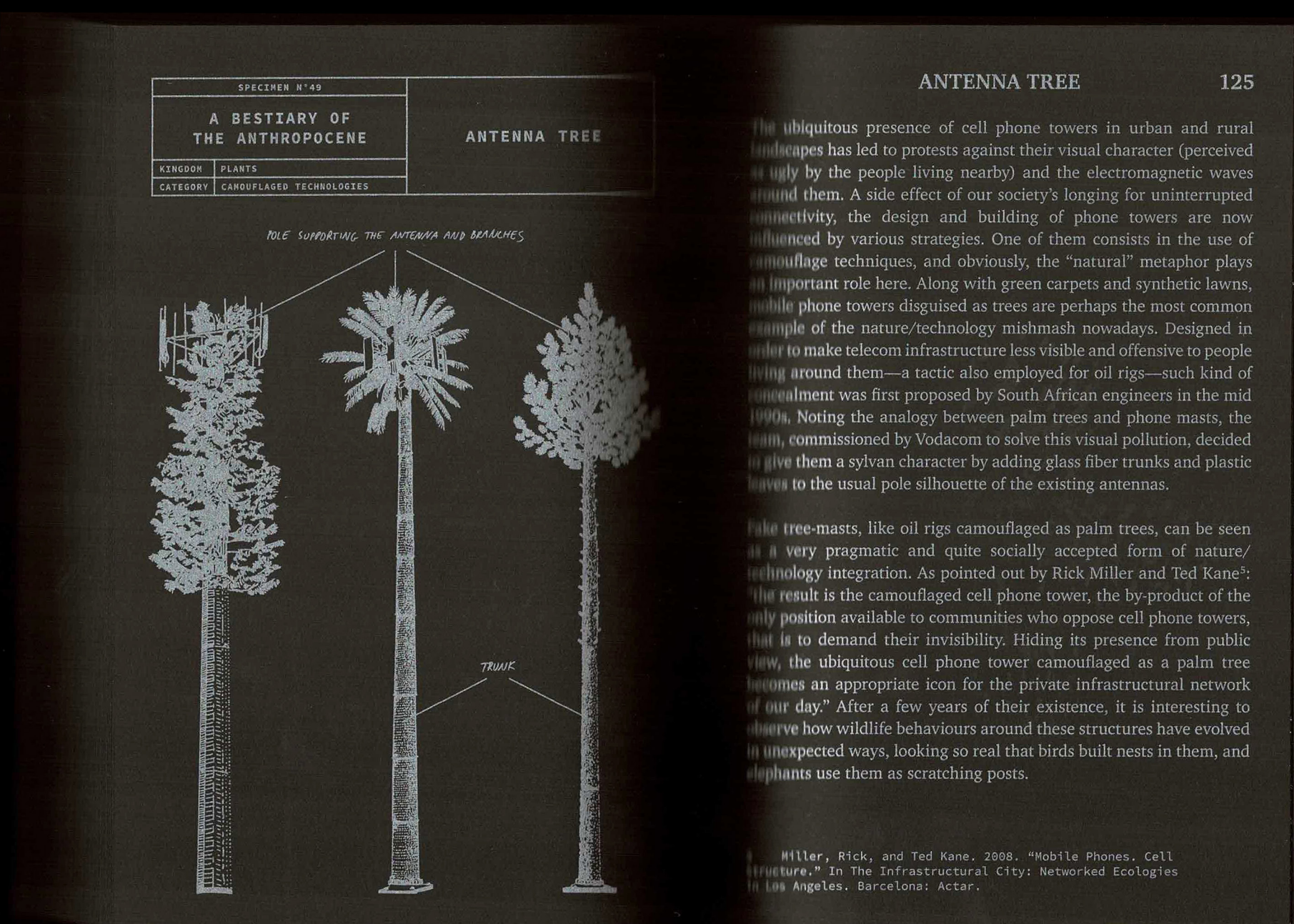


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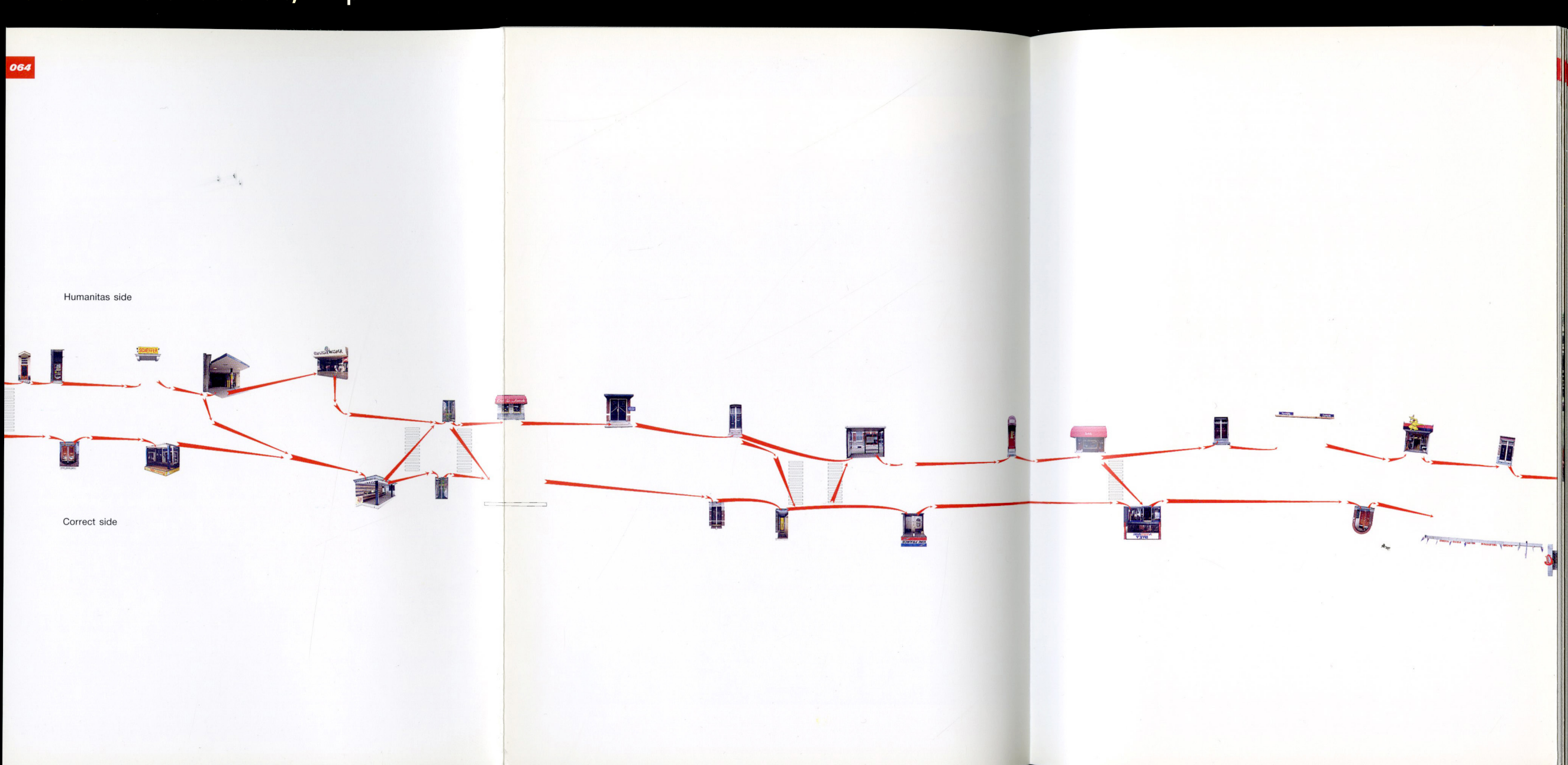


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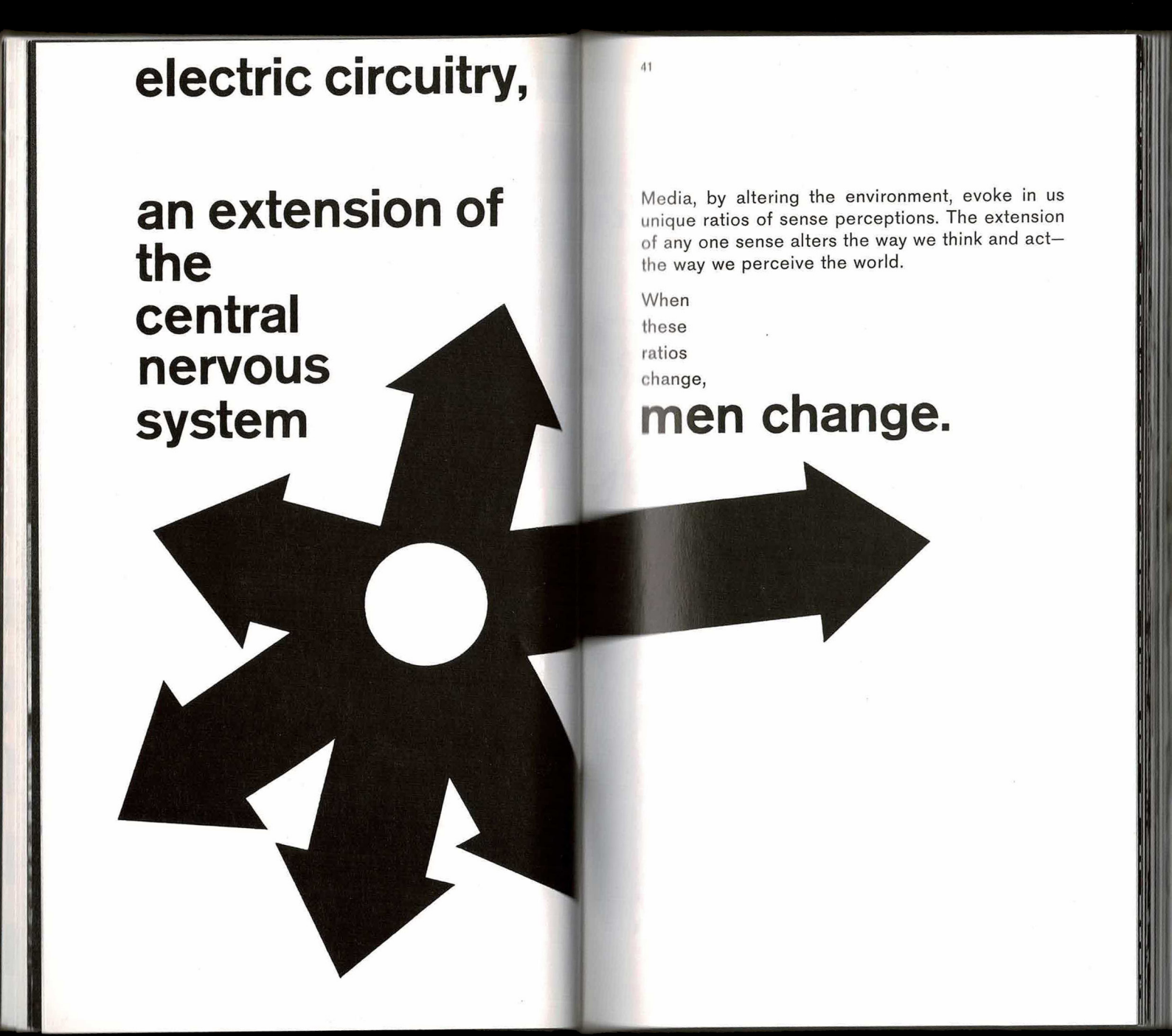


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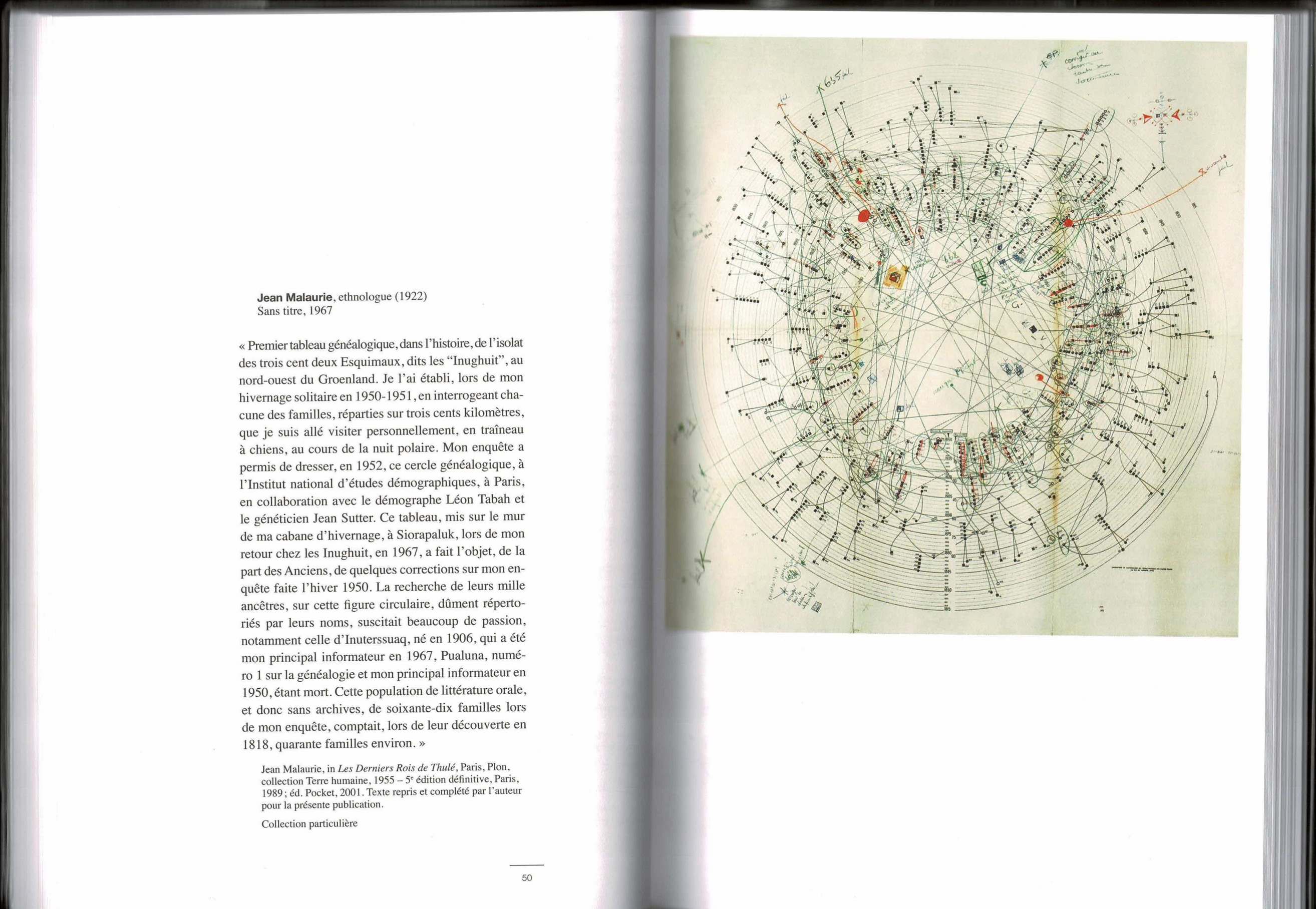
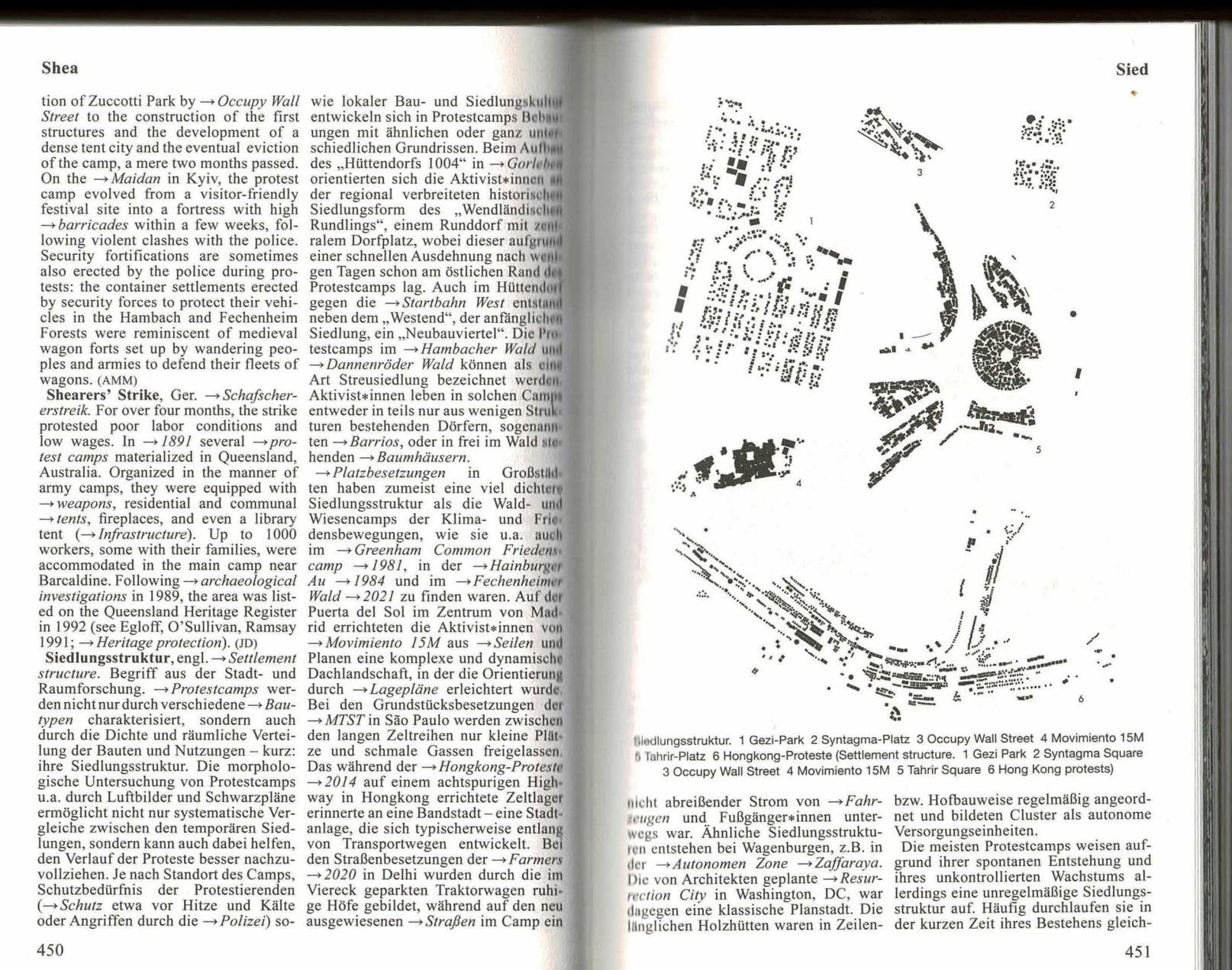
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The sun is hitting Harris Manchester College with a harmonious measuredness that makes me feel like anything is possible this morning. Looking at beautiful architecture can precipitate optimistic feelings. A driver in a Vauxhall Insignia brushes past me towards St Cross Road but realizes that it is a gated street. He turns around, and as the car picks up speed, dry leaves disperse in the air with the grace of a car commercial.



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