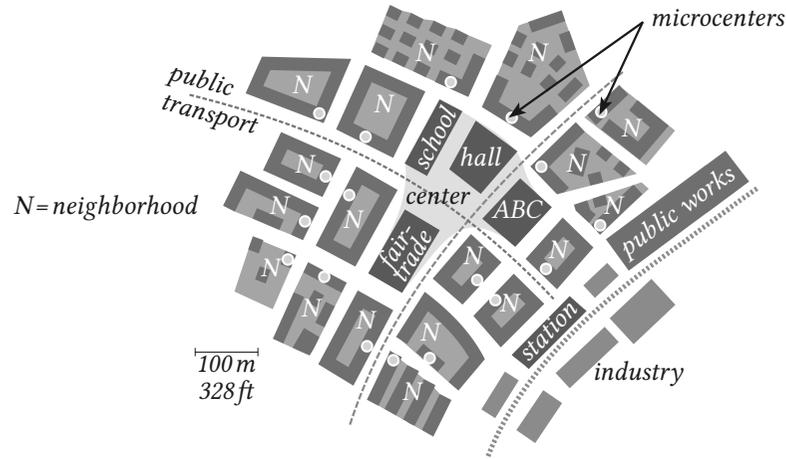


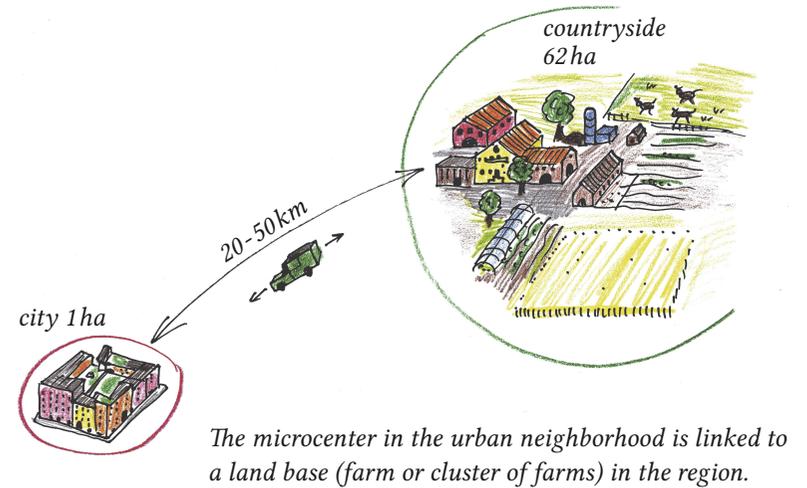
The borough or small town works best if the above services are clustered around a small, central square (40 by 40m): distances are cut short, synergies are enhanced and communication is made easier. Boroughs/small towns are everyday-life areas, where most vital functions can be reached on foot within 10 minutes.



This is a schematic view of a basic commune that can be either an urban borough or a small town.



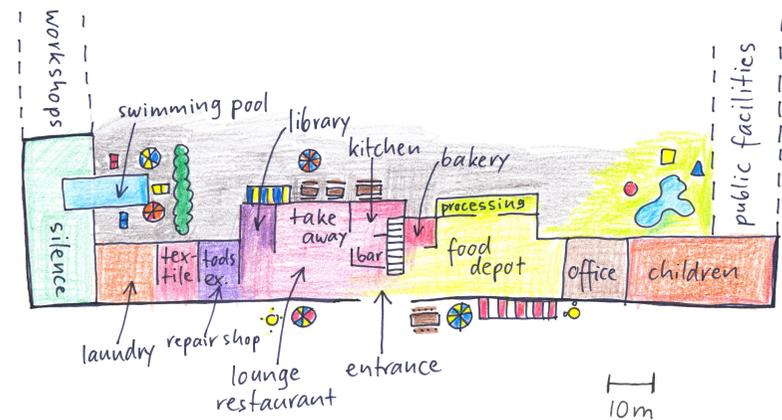
This is an image of a possible ABC: The «world wall» at the back can be linked on-line to the other 399'999 world walls of the planet.



The **microcenter** is a mixed-use service area (preferably on the ground floor) that optimizes housework, shortens distances (80 m = 1 minute), allows for synergies and serves at the same time as a place for everyday communication, social gatherings and fun and games.

Depending on local conditions and the predilections of the members it covers between 1200 and 2000 m<sup>2</sup>. It is run by the organization of the inhabitants (based on an operational concept).

Here is a schematic view:





*This is an image of a metrofoyer (on a site in Zurich): The central gallery is used for larger gatherings and events and there are bistros/bars/restaurants on both sides run by sister cities from all over the world. At the back there's a reception lobby of the city and its boroughs or institutions.*

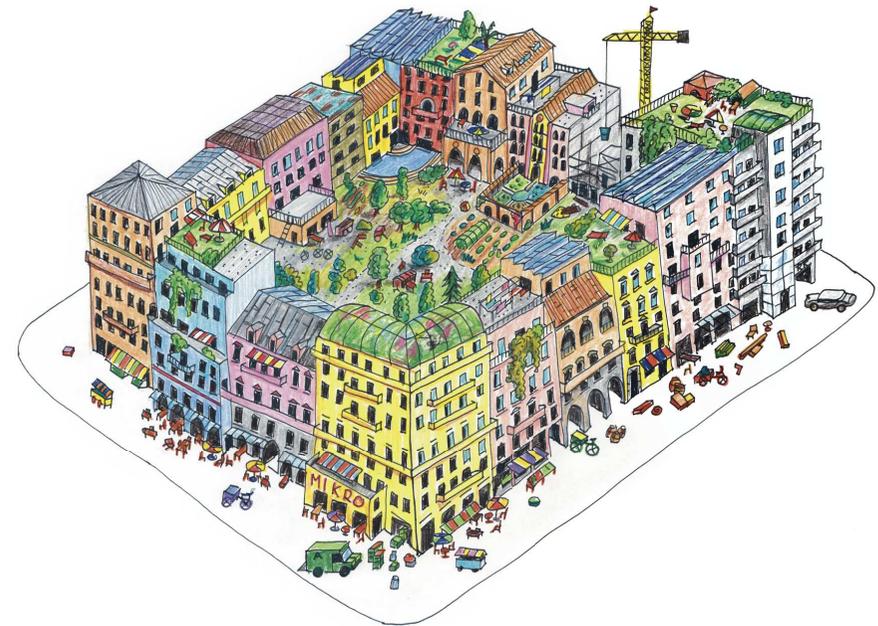
*On the upper floor civic organizations, political parties, NGOs have their seats; there are meeting rooms that can be booked; there is an open urban think tank. Further up there is a panorama restaurant (with affordable prices) run by the city.*

#### **4. Territories (glomo4)**

Territories correspond to an area of about 50'000 km<sup>2</sup> (which is a square of 225 km) inhabited by around 10 million persons. A territory comprises 5 to 10 regions. Territories are purely functional; meaning they're non-ethnic, a-cultural, and non-linguistic. Whether historical borders are respected or not is a matter of topographic convenience (rivers, mountains etc.).

A territorial module of this size and population is ideally suited for larger scale services and systems, such as: energy (grid and power

The members of a neighborhood constitute a collective household complementing the private ones, securing most of the basic needs.



*This is an impression of an urban neighborhood (glomo1) in a traditional European city.*

62 ha of agricultural land are sufficient for the basic supply of food under temperate climate conditions (Middle Europe, USA, China, Japan etc.). In most cases an agricultural base will not be farther away than 20 to 50 km from the neighborhood. A small truck (3 t) is sufficient to deliver the food to any neighborhood. Cooperation, sharing and exchange between adjacent neighborhoods are encouraged. Access to land and food is an essential element of the sovereignty of neighborhoods, but also of their quality of life (quality of food, holidays in the country, participation in farm work and food processing).

To give an example of the types and quantities of food and the necessary surfaces:

## 5. The planet (glomo5)

The planet's 800 territories form a global alliance for joint cooperation in all concerns of planetary importance by setting up a range of agencies, such as:

- monitoring and protection of biosphere
- organizing cooperation and solving disputes between territories
- regulations of boundaries and borders
- distributing global resources
- world bank
- emergency aid (natural disasters, epidemics, food, medicaments)
- sharing of know-how
- research
- space exploration
- global court
- security and sanctions
- production and sharing of technical components, algorithms, materials
- transport systems
- communication systems (public internet, globonet)
- cultural exchange

As the present global institutions are in a crisis of legitimacy, a new organization will have to be created. Transparency, democratic structures and equal power/size of members are essential.

A legislative/representative assembly of 1600 delegates (two from each gender and territory) seems plausible, with an executive board of 25 members running the agencies.

On the whole global activities will shrink in amount and importance, as small and local ones become more efficient thanks to digitization, automation and the sharing of knowledge and information via the globonet.

### Summary

A global distribution of economic spheres, functions and modules could look such as this (neither completeness nor priorities are intended):

7. Provide accessible, low-cost means for conflict resolution.
8. Build up responsibility for governing the common resource in nested tiers from the lowest level up to the entire interconnected system.

These basic rules apply to all institutions of all modules (see below). In a rational household economy three basic spheres can be distinguished:

- The subsistence economy of everyday households (neighborhoods, glomo1), where non-paid work is most common.
- Additional public services and industries that are maintained on a larger scale through the will and cooperation of the citizens concerned. These services are rationally planned according to resources and needs within territorial borders and managed by its institutions.
- A residual sphere of non-vital individual or collective enterprises of diverse forms (firms, cooperatives, partnerships) that does not work according to a fixed plan but is regulated by ecological and social laws.

### Individual development and social inclusion

According to recent research many aspects of the present lifestyle make us unhappy. Poverty makes us unhappy, as does continuous stress at the workplace. High levels of inequality are linked to more violence and poorer health. The most equal societies are also the happiest (cf. Denmark).

The development of the industrial economy has dissolved oppressive family structures and traditional communities. On the other hand phenomena such as unwanted loneliness, social isolation and anonymity are reasons for concern. A lot of people suffer from a lack of real belonging and support.

Even where basic needs are satisfied, genuine personal development, participation, and empowerment are deficient at the workplace and at home.

We need new ways of life, where persons of all age groups feel integrated and part of a community, enjoy social recognition and a secure social position. To grow up healthily and become happy adults children need a friendly and safe environment. Privacy, social inclusion and individual development need not be contradictions.

## Institutions

The suggested administrative institutions of each module are shown in this table:

<i>module</i>	<i>legislative</i>	<i>executive</i>	<i>direct democratic rights</i>
neighborhood	general assembly	board (7 persons)	right to call for general assemblies
borough/small town	big council (100)	small council (7)	proposition/referendum
region/big city	big council (100)	small council (7)	proposition/referendum
territory	big council (400)	small council (11)	proposition/referendum
planet	big council (1600)	small council (25)	–

These institutions represent the traditional and long-established mix of direct democratic assemblies, bodies of delegates and plebiscitary instruments. They are based on fundamental democratic rights, such as universal voting rights, transparency, freedom of expression and association. Plebiscitary instruments should not be used in modules bigger than territories.

## Transformation and finances

The means and resources to realize the proposal are presently available on a planetary scale. A certain level of global equality is preconditional for the trustful cooperation of the modules.

Whereas old industrial societies mainly in the planetary north often display hypertrophic infrastructures, essential equipment is lacking in the south. A redirection of global investment towards the global south is therefore needed for a transitional period.

If we assume that the transformation of existing structures into neighborhood-communities (glomo1) costs 5 million dollars each, we'd need an overall investment of 80 trillion dollars. This corresponds to the annual global GDP. Even spread over several years such an expenditure (= mobilization of material resources) doesn't seem viable.

A typical «western» lifestyle is thus unsustainable even if confined to the old centres of industrialization. It isn't universally applicable. Technological innovation alone is not sufficient and will come too late. We have to look for smarter arrangements. For reasons of ecology and justice, a typical lifestyle menu would have to look such as this (take Switzerland as an example):

- 20 m<sup>2</sup> of private living space
- 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> of communal space (1250 m<sup>2</sup> in a microcenter, see below)
- no cars
- no flights
- 6 km by train per person/day (today: 6 km in Switzerland)
- a train trip of 1000 km per year
- a boat voyage of 1000 km per year
- 15 kg of meat per year (4.3 kg beef, 7.6 kg pork, 3.2 kg fowl; today: USA 120, Switzerland 50)
- 20 l milk per year (Switzerland today: 370 l)
- 70 l water per day
- 3 hours of internet use per week (today: 7)
- 1 newspaper per day per 50 inhabitants

The different factors are partly interchangeable: e.g. eat less meat, but enjoy a car trip, reduce your living space for a short-distance flight etc. On the whole these limits call for a completely different life-style, which requires a different residential, territorial and institutional setting. While existing western mass consumerism is clearly unsustainable, an enjoyable way of life for all 10 billion humans is not only possible; it would mean a huge advance for the majority of the world population. Above all, there are enough resources to avoid drudgery, to maintain or establish a functioning health system and to further scientific and technological advances.

## Economic limits

The current economic system is in a state of permanent crisis. This can be illustrated by the following figures: 226 trillion dollars of planetary debt. i.e. 300 % of the planetary GDP of 70 trillion (almost double the debt/GDP-proportion of Greece), a 600 trillion bubble of financial derivatives.

### Some useful books

- Boudet, Dominique (Ed.), *New Housing In Zurich, Typologies for a Changing Society*, Park Books, 2017
- De Angelis, Massimo, *Omnia Sunt Communia*, Zed-Books, 2017
- Dolan, Paul, *Happiness by Design*, 2017
- Helfrich, Silke (Hg.), *Die Welt der Commons*, transcript Verlag, 2017
- Jackson, Tim, *Prosperity Without Growth, 2009/2017*
- Kahneman, Daniel, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, 2011
- Largo, Remo, *Das passende Leben*, 2017
- Layard, Richard, *Happiness: Lessons From A New Science*, Penguin, 2011
- P.M. «The Power of Neighborhood» and the Commons, *Autonomie-dia*, 2014
- Nelson, Anitra; Schneider, François, *Housing for Degrowth*, 2018
- Neustart Schweiz, *Nach Hause kommen*, 2016
- Raworth, Kate, *Doughnut Economics, Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist*, 2017
- Rosling, Hans, et.al., *Factfulness*, 2017
- Streeck, Wolfgang, *How Will Capitalism End?* Verso, 2016
- Tiddens, Harris C.M., *Wurzeln für die lebende Stadt*, 2014
- Wilkinson Richard G. and Kate Pickett, *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*, 2009
- Widmer, Hans (Ed.), *Die Andere Stadt, Paranoia City*, 2017

# a proposal