

AS THE SNOW STARTED TO FALL. THREE PEOPLE WERE SEEN. THEY WALKED ONE BEHIND THE OTHER. IT HAS BEEN COLDER. TODAY THERE WAS THE SENSE THAT A THAW WAS COMING, IN THE DISTANCE WAS A LARGE BUILDING. LIGHT COULD BE SEEN FROM GAPS IN THE STRUCTURE. YOU COULDN'T DESCRIBE THE GAPS AS WINDOWS. THE PRIOR CLARITY OF THE STRUCTURE HAD BEEN DISTURBED, BY NEW OPENINGS CUT AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS ACROSS EACH FACE OF THE BUILDING. THE TRUE SCALE OF THE STRUCTURE WAS HARD TO READ. UNTIL YOU CAME CLOSE THE BUILDING WAS HARD TO DEFINE. THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE HELD NO MARKERS. NOTHING EXISTED IN ORDER TO JUDGE SCALE OR SIZE. THE THREE PEOPLE KEPT WALKING. THERE WAS NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT DURING THIS LONG TREK. WE FOLLOW THEM AS THEY WALK. AND OVER TIME THEY PROVIDE A SENSE OF SCALE. THE TRUE MASS OF THE BUILDING SOON REVEALED ITSELF. THE SIZE OF THE CUTS IN ITS FACADE NOW TROUBLING AND EXCESSIVE. GREAT TEARS AND RAW HOLES BREAKING THROUGH. YET THE STRUCTURE REMAINED. PERFORATED IN HASTE. REVEALING NOW PEOPLE MOVING SLOWLY INSIDE. NO-ONE REACTING TO THE APPROACH OF THE THREE. EVERYONE USED TO THE IDEA OF SOME NEW ARRIVALS. WALKING SLOWLY THROUGH THE SNOW. NOW INSIDE THE BUILDING. THERE ARE TRACES OF A PRODUCTION LINE. THE PEOPLE MOVING AROUND THE SPACE ARE HARD AT WORK. YET RATHER THAN USING THE PLACE AS A SITE OF PRODUCTION, THEY ARE METHODICALLY DISMANTLING EVERYTHING. NEAT PILES OF MACHINE PARTS. STACKS OF PIPING AND CONDUIT. BARRELS OF COOLANT, LUBRICANT AND MACHINE OIL. IN THE CENTRE NOW THERE WAS A CLEAR SPACE. SEATING HAD BEEN IMPROVISED. ALONG WITH LARGE TABLES. AND LOW SLUNG LIGHTING. SURROUNDING THIS AREA, LARGE SCREENS HAD BEEN ERECTED. ON THESE SCREENS, A MASS OF TEXT AND NOTATION AND PLANS. A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE. AN IMPROVISED ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL OF FUTURE PRODUCTION. ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE ALL MATERIAL RELATIONSHIPS. SUCH AN EFFORT. SUCH

PRECISE CALCULATION. AN INVENTORY OF PREVIOUS PRODUCTION. MANY HOURS HAD BEEN SPENT REGRETTING THE EARLY BONFIRE, THAT HAD BEEN FUELED BY NOTES AND COMMENTS FROM EARLIER TIMES. THEY USED TO WORK IN TEAMS. NOW THEY WORK IN A LARGE GROUP. AT TIMES THEY WORK ALONE. TRYING TO CREATE AN ARCHIVE OF ALL PREVIOUS WORKING METHODS. AT TIMES THIS WORK IS PUNCTUATED BY THE SOUNDS OF IMPROVISED TOOLS TEARING AT THE WALL. EVERYONE STOPS WHAT THEY ARE DOING. ASSUMING THAT THEY WERE DOING SOMETHING IN THE FIRST PLACE. AND MANY ARE LYING ON THE GROUND. FOR AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, MANY APPEAR TO BE RESTING IN THE SHADOWS. THOSE THAT WERE RESTING NOW SPRING INTO ACTION. GRABBING STICKS AND RODS AND PIECES OF OLD MACHINERY. EVERYONE GOES TO THE ALREADY PUNCTURED WALLS. AND BEGIN TO HACK NEW GAPS INTO THE EXTERIOR OF THE FORMER FACTORY. SOME ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS. SO SOME PEOPLE HELP BY BENDING AND FOLDING THE TORN ALUMINIUM IN AN ATTEMPT TO PULL IT FREE. THE FACTORY CLOSED A LONG TIME AGO. OR MAYBE IT WAS A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. THERE WERE NO AIMS AT THE OUTSET. MERELY A DESIRE TO RETURN AND REOCCUPY. AS WE KNOW EVERYONE HAD BEEN WELL LOOKED AFTER. BUT THE POTENTIAL OF THE SPACE REMAINED APPEALING. IN ORDER TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING REUSED, PEOPLE HAD BEGUN TO USE THE PLACE AGAIN. AT FIRST MERELY HANGING AROUND AND TALKING ABOUT HOW THINGS HAD GONE WRONG. AFTER A WHILE THEY STARTED TO DRAW OUT NEW OPENINGS ON THE WALLS. THE DISMANTLING OF THE MACHINERY ONLY CAME LATER ONCE PEOPLE HAD STOPPED GOING HOME AT NIGHT. ANYONE PASSING BY WOULD HEAR PEOPLE WORKING LATE INTO THE NIGHT. WHILE THEY BELIEVED THAT THINGS WERE BEING MADE, THIS WAS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE. MERELY THE SOUND OF ACTION. OFTEN, EARLY IN THE MORNING, THE PLACE WOULD BE QUIET. YET PEOPLE RARELY LEFT THESE DAYS. FOOD WAS BEING PRODUCED IN SMALL GARDENS. WATER COULD BE SOURCED FROM A PUMP. A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND CARE

WAS PUT INTO THE GARDENS. BUT THE PRIMARY EFFORT WENT INTO CALCULATION. EVERY AVAILABLE SURFACE HAD BEEN MARKED. EVERY TABLE COVERED IN DIAGRAMS. THERE WERE LISTS OF MATERIALS. AND LISTS OF PROCESSES. THERE WERE SHIPPING ROUTES. AND ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION TIMES. AS THE FORMER FACTORY WAS NEATLY DISMANTLED. A NEW VIRTUAL PRODUCTION LINE TOOK ITS PLACE. BUT THIS ONE WAS NOT LIMITED TO ONE LOCATION. INSTEAD IT INCLUDED ALL PLACES ON EARTH. THE CALCULATIONS ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN. ALL OF THE RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION. NOW, IT SOUNDS AS IF THIS MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF DEVASTATED NEAR FUTURE. OR A CORRUPTED COMMUNE. BUT THESE WERE THE NORMAL EX-WORKERS. THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO ARRIVE AT THE FACTORY EVERY DAY. MANY OF THEM HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS. AT FIRST THEY HAD PEOPLED THE PRODUCTION LINE. AFTER A WHILE THEY HAD WON THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE THEMSELVES. AT FIRST THIS HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL. ALL PREDICTIONS OF COLLAPSE AND LOW PRODUCTION HAD BEEN UNFOUNDED. AS SOON AS THIS SELF-ORGANISATION HAD TAKEN ROOT IT WAS TAKEN AWAY. EVERYONE HAD TO GO BACK TO THE LINE OR LEAVE. THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION AND NO LOGIC TO THIS. BUT EVEN A SHORT STRIKE COULDN'T CHANGE THE DECISION. SOME DECIDED TO LEAVE. OTHERS DECIDED TO STAY. WITHIN WEEKS THE FACTORY FELL SILENT AND CLOSED. AT FIRST PEOPLE WERE DRAWN TO THE FACTORY OUT OF BOREDOM. AND A DEGREE OF FRUSTRATION THAT AN INCOMPLETE PROJECT HAS BEEN ABANDONED SO SOON. INITIALLY PEOPLE WOULD FUNCTION IN PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER. MANY MERELY CHOOSING THIS PLACE AS A LOCATION TO PASS THE TIME. CALCULATION BECAME THE COMMON LANGUAGE. SHARING NOTES AND SPECULATIVE MODELS. THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, TO AVOID ANECDOTAL PLAY. INSTEAD TO MOVE FOCUS AWAY FROM PEOPLE AND ONTO OBJECTS. A DESIRE TO ACCOUNT FOR EVERYTHING. A NEED TO CREATE A SERIES OF EQUATIONS THAT COULD PROVIDE A NEW BALANCE. A DESIRE TO QUANTIFY RELATIONSHIPS. GREAT

LISTS OF MATERIALS WERE CREATED. ROUTES AND MODES OF TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSED. EVERYTHING WAS TIED TO EVERYTHING ELSE IN A DESPERATE SEARCH FOR BALANCE. PEOPLE FOUND A WAY TO AMUSE AND OCCUPY EACH OTHER WITH THIS GLOBAL ACCOUNTING. IT DREW THEM ALL TOGETHER AND TRANSCENDED ALL DIFFERENCE. SOME MORNINGS, NEW PEOPLE WOULD ARRIVE AND MARVEL AT THE INCREDIBLE QUANTITY OF WORK THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. AN INVERSE PRODUCTIVITY. OVER MANY YEARS THE WORK CONTINUED. IT INITIALLY BROUGHT CURIOUS OUTSIDERS TO THE FORMER FACTORY. AFTER A WHILE THE VISITORS STOPPED COMING. AND LEFT THE MAIN GROUP TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK. THE MACHINERY, BY THIS POINT WAS UNRECOGNISABLE. ALL OF IT HAD BEEN BROKEN BACK DOWN INTO ITS COMPONENT PARTS. ONE PART OF THE GROUP NOW SPECIALISED IN TURNING THESE PARTS BACK INTO ELEMENTS. NOT REPROCESSING FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NEW THINGS BUT THE COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF FORMER PARTS. THE EFFORT PUT INTO THIS REVERSE PRODUCTION WAS AS EXTREME AS THE EARLY DYNAMIC OF CAPITALISM. THE CORE GROUP WORKED HARD ON THEIR PROJECT AT TIMES WHEN THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED IN REFINING THEIR CALCULATIONS. THERE WAS AN INCREASING SENSE THAT A MOMENT WAS BEING REACHED. A CERTAIN LEVEL OF RESOLUTION BEING ACHIEVED. THE BORDERS OF THE BUILDING WERE NOW COMPLETELY POROUS. GARDENS EXTENDED INSIDE THE BUILDING. AND PILES OF MATERIAL WERE NOW STACKED JUST OUTSIDE THE FACTORY WALLS. SOME CHILDREN WERE BORN. SOME PEOPLE LEFT. SOME PEOPLE DIED. A FEW WERE MAIMED IN ACCIDENTS. THE OLD WORKED ALONGSIDE THE YOUNG. THERE WAS NO OBLIGATION TO DO ANYTHING. THE TEXTS AND CALCULATIONS FORMED AN ENORMOUS ARCHIVE. A MASSIVE LOG OF ALL POTENTIAL EXCHANGES. AN EXHAUSTED BUT HAPPY GROUP. WITH A PERFECT EXCHANGE TOOL. THE BASIS OF IT DERIVED FROM EXPERIENCE. A NEAR COMPLETE DISMANTLING. OVER TIME THE BUILDING NO LONGER RESEMBLED A FACTORY. IT HAD BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE LANDSCAPE. THE RIGOR OF THE

ORIGINAL STRUCTURE HAD BEEN LOST. EVERY REMAINING SURFACE WAS DENTED AND BENT. THE ROOF WAS MISSING IN PLACES. AT NIGHT PEOPLE SLEPT IN THE FORMER OFFICES. SAFELY LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE. IN GOOD WEATHER THEY SLEPT IN THE MAIN SPACE. OR ON PLATFORMS SUSPENDED ABOVE THE FLOOR. THE FEW REMAINING WALLS WERE SO HEAVILY MARKED WITH CALCULATIONS THAT THEY PROVIDED A REASSURING PATTERN. EVEN THOUGH SOME PEOPLE NO LONGER REMEMBERED WHAT THIS WORK HAD BEEN FOR. SPECIAL DAYS HAD DEVELOPED OVER TIME. CELEBRATING MARKERS IN THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE. MOMENTS WHEN ORES AND FUELS HAD BEEN RESOLVED. ALCOHOL AND FOOD HAD BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. THERE WAS THE GENERAL FEELING THAT THINGS WERE WORKING OUT. A SENSE THAT ALL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WORLD HAD BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. YET ANY CASUAL VISITOR, HAD THEY STILL BOTHERED TO PASS BY, WOULD NOTICE SOME STRANGE THINGS. WHAT FELT LIKE HARD WORK IN THE FORMER FACTORY WOULD LOOK LIKE ALMOST NOTHING TO SOMEONE USED TO THE DYNAMIC OF CAPITALISM. THE LEVEL OF WORK TAKING PLACE WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SENSE. A GROUP OF SHY, NEARLY SILENT PEOPLE MOVING SLOWLY OR LYING ON THE GROUND. BUT IN THEIR MINDS THEY WERE STILL RESOLVING GREAT RELATIONSHIPS. BREAKING DOWN STRUCTURES AND ACCOUNTING FOR EVERYTHING. THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE FACTORY POPULATION WAS POOR. THEIR SUPERFICIAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE EVEN WORSE. DENTISTRY HAD NEVER TAKEN OFF. PODIATRY UNKNOWN. POSTURE WAS HUNCHED. AND MIRRORS COMPLETELY ABSENT. NEW STANDARDS HAD EMERGED. CONNECTED TO THE ABILITY TO RESOLVE. YET ANY ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE AN OBJECTIVE READING OF THIS WORK WAS NOW BOUND TO FAIL. THE TRUE EFFORT OF THE PLACE MAINLY WENT INTO GARDENING. AND EVEN THAT WAS BARELY MAINTAINED. YET THERE WAS A SENSE THAT THIS WAS A BETTER WAY. FREE FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF PRODUCTION AND THE OBLIGATION TO IMPROVISE. A TRUE PARALLEL HAD BEEN CREATED. THAT

OFFERED A TRUE ILLUSION OF IMPORTANT WORK. ONE WINTER, AS THE WEATHER GREW COLD. A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE GREW RESTLESS. THE ARRIVAL OF THE THREE PEOPLE HAD RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE COME FROM A SIMILAR PLACE. AND NOBODY STILL LIVED WHO COULD VERIFY THEIR CLAIM. THEIR STORY SOUNDED REAL ENOUGH. AND THEIR EXPERIENCES EXTREMELY FAMILIAR. THEY TOO HAD BEEN PART OF AN IMPROVISED COMMUNITY. A LONG WAY FROM HERE. FOR A WHILE EVEN THE MOST LANGUID ATTEMPTS AT WORK WERE STOPPED. MANY NIGHTS WERE NOW SPENT COMPARING RESEARCH. THE FACTORY SPACE WAS CLEANED UP. AND LAYERS OF WRITING EXPOSED IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN, IN REVERSE THE WORKING OF THIS PLACE. GARDENING STOPPED LEADING TO SEVERE MALNOURISHMENT. UNTIL ONE OF THE NEWCOMERS OFFERED TO TAKE OVER, INTRODUCING AN "EFFICIENT" NEW TECHNIQUE. KILLING ANIMALS HAD NEVER OCCURRED TO THE FACTORY DWELLERS. BUT A TASTE FOR COOKED MEAT LIFTED MANY FROM THE FLOOR AND THEY TOO EAGERLY JOINED IN THE PROCESS OF EXPLANATION. SOME PARTS OF THE FORMER WALLS WERE NOW RESTORED. AND A SMALL GENERATOR COAXED BACK INTO LIFE. IT WAS NECESSARY TO SHOW THE VISITORS EVERYTHING. REVEAL SLOWLY HOW THE RESOLUTION OF ALL MATERIAL RELATIONSHIPS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. LAYERS OF TEXT WERE CAREFULLY CLEANED FROM THE WALLS. EACH REMOVAL REVEALING A HIDDEN LAYER BENEATH. PAPERS WERE STACKED AND ARCHIVED. CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED INDEXES WERE PRODUCED. EVERYONE WAS OPEN AND GENEROUS. THE VISITORS WOULD SOMETIME BE FOUND SEARCHING THROUGH THE SHADOWS. INITIALLY THIS WAS OF NO CONCERN. BUT ONE OR TWO WERE SUSPICIOUS. YET COULDN'T FIND ANY FOCUS FOR THEIR CONCERNS. AFTER TWO OR THREE MONTHS WORK BEGAN ON RECONSTRUCTING A COMPUTER CONTROLLED WELDING MACHINE. THIS NOW JOINED THE PAINT SHOP THAT HAD BEEN COMPLETED A FEW WEEKS EARLIER. ONE COMPLETE WALL OF THE FORMER FACTORY HAD ALSO BEEN RESTORED. AT GREAT EFFORT THE

FACADE HAD BEEN RECREATED. THE EFFORT TOOK ITS TOLL. AND PEOPLE DIED PREMATURELY. OTHERS WERE WEAK. BUT THE COLLECTIVE DESIRE TO SHOW THE WORK ACHIEVED LED TO RENEWED EFFORTS. A NEW SIMPLE HIGH FAT AND HIGH CARBOHYDRATE DIET WAS INTRODUCED. LEAVING THE WORKERS HAPPY FOR A WHILE. WEIGHT INCREASED. AND SO DID THE PACE OF RECONSTRUCTION. PEOPLE WERE NOW ENCOURAGED TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR WORK. COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS WERE FORGOTTEN. EVERYTHING NOW HAD A RATIONAL AIM. DEATH WAS INCREASINGLY COMMON. THE RATE OF RECONSTRUCTION INCREASED. THE ARCHIVE WAS LOST IN A FIRE. THE PROCESS OF EXPLANATION ABANDONED. THE WORK WAS NEARLY COMPLETE. THE THREE SURVEYED THE WORK. THEY WERE HAPPY WITH THE REINSTATED PLANT. CLEAN AND CLEAR. EARLY ON THE LAST EVENING. THE LAST OF THE FEW. WERE LINED UP BY THE SMELTER. AND NO LONGER KNOWING WHAT TO DO... SLIPPED INTO THE MELT.