WPA2.0: DATAPORTS

Registration no. P1121
Lines, Points, and Posts

Mid-20th century infrastructure consisted largely of directly-connected, physical systems such as roadways.

Digital communication and the internet have introduced a new type of infrastructure; complex, invisible webs of communicating processors shift the focus from lines (direct connections) to points (nodes/hubs).

Given that these points are the only visible trace of today’s data infrastructure, can we give them a meaningful public interface?
The number of data centers is expected to double in the next five years and they can be found nearly everywhere. Many are built in and around cities where data is produced and the demand for processing power is highest. 60 Hudson Street in New York houses servers for around 100 companies. According to the website of one of those firms, Telx, it is, “the nerve center for international communications.” While exceptional in size, the building is typical of the model: private, expensive, and hidden in plain sight.
Equal Distribution

Private infrastructure is located according to market demand and is unevenly distributed throughout the city. Conversely, the US Postal Service operates a minimum of one post office within each zip code. By integrating access points and communication tools within these public institutions, we can correct the uneven distribution of resources and reconnect communities through new infrastructure.
Inside the DataPost

- "Clock Tower" LED Display
- Updraft Tower
- Power Generation Turbines
- Planted Roof
- Skylight
- Isolated Data Center Structure
- Teleconferencing Room
- Existing Post Office Building
- Data Center Offices
- Adjustable Louvers
- Server Racks
- Post Office Back Of House
- Automated Postal Service Machines
- Information Counter
- Community Interface Station
- Community Event Space
- Individual Computing Access Station
- Inside the DataPost
Circle of Benefits

Integrating Post Offices with Data Centers creates new market opportunities in locations spread evenly across the city. The benefits are shared by information entrepreneurs, the postal service, and the city as a whole. But by designing the DataPosts as local public anchors, the big winner is the community.
Environmental Section

Operable Louvers Allow Cool Air to be Drawn through the Post Office or Directly into the Data Center

Heat Chimney

Skylight

1. Post Office
2. Data Center
3. Waste Heat Recovery ‘Clock Tower’
Reanimating the Post Office