

# MUTATIONS

REM KOOLHAAS

HARVARD PROJECT ON THE CITY

STEFANO BOERI MULTIPLICITY

SANFORD KWINTER

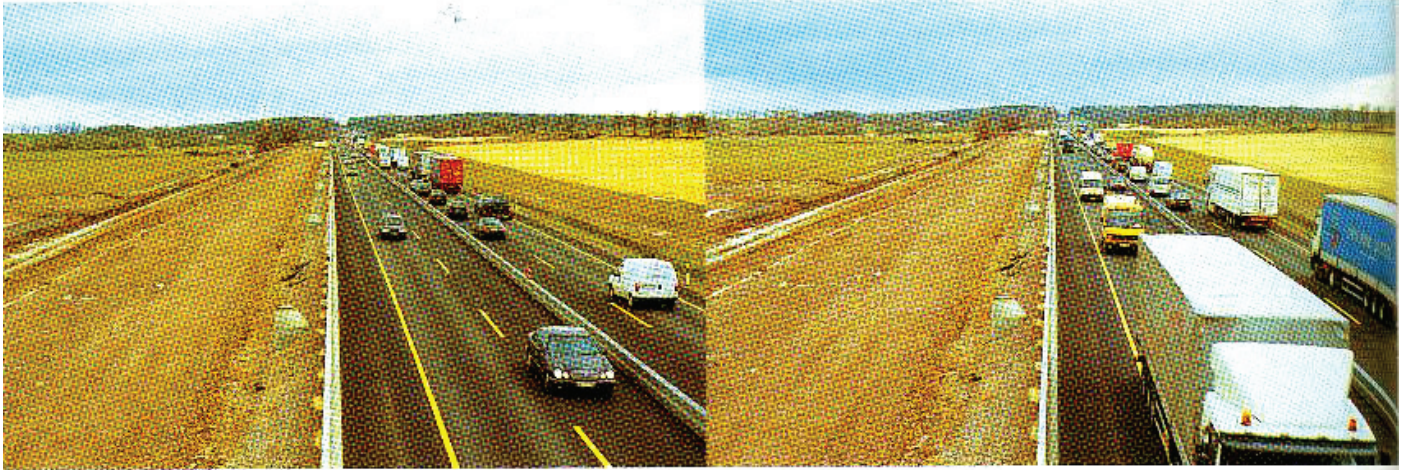
NADIA TAZI

HANS ULRICH OBRIST

## USE.06 RFA-RDA [EXPANSION]

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Automatic Engineering



German reunification has given rise to a prodigious investment campaign destined to rewrite the infrastructure of the East.

The four-lane freeway that crosses the entire territory of the former GDR from east to west, Görlitz to Eisenach, is today flanked by a long, monotonous construction site launched to bring this important artery up to contemporary freeway norms. Between now and 2010, the A4 will become a modern six-lane freeway, similar in every respect to those that crisscross West Germany. The use of the freeway will not be interrupted by the project, and the transformation will remain almost invisible.

The road seems to be almost automatically doubled, as though by a natural process whose evolution is simply monitored by the engineers.

The landscape bordering the A4 is also undergo-

ing various transformations, along with the surrounding region: industries are settling in, major facilities are being built, particularly in Leipzig which has just acquired a new airport, plus the most modern commercial fair center in Europe. Entire stretches of the territory are also emptying out, signs of another mutation. There is a sharp drop in agricultural activity (five hundred thousand hectares of arable land were left fallow after the fall of the Berlin Wall). Great, inert coal mines bear witness to the obsolescence of the old industrial and territorial pattern. Sixty-five thousand living spaces were abandoned in the center of Leipzig (a city where the residential model has prospered) because of a changing ownership structure which prolongs the duration of investments. All signs of a mutation which runs parallel to the doubling of the A4 freeway.