

This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/1847.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/1847.001.0001)

# City of Bits

## Space, Place, and the Infobahn

By: William J. Mitchell

### Citation:

*City of Bits: Space, Place, and the Infobahn*

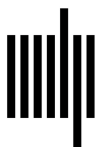
By: William J. Mitchell

DOI: 10.7551/mitpress/1847.001.0001

ISBN (electronic): 9780262279956

Publisher: The MIT Press

Published: 1996



The MIT Press

I presented a first sketch of this book at a symposium entitled *Electrotecture: Architecture and the Electronic Future*, sponsored by the Guggenheim Museum and *ANY* magazine, in New York in 1993. The results of this symposium were published in *ANY*, number 3 (November/December 1993). I am grateful to Mark C. Taylor and Cynthia C. Davidson for organizing this very successful event, and to the other participants for the stimulating discussion that they provided.

In Fall 1994, Mitch Kapor and I taught an MIT graduate seminar entitled *Digital Communities*; numerous discussions with Mitch, with our teaching assistant Anne Beamish, and with participants in the seminar generated additional ideas and insights.

## A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

The final text owes much to the extensive, meticulous research efforts of Anne Beamish. Debra Edelstein provided editorial advice. Michael Baenen did some crucial fact checking. Friends, students, and colleagues too numerous to mention read versions of the manuscript as it evolved and generously gave me their comments.

The jacket illustration was produced by Suguru Ishizaki at the MIT Media Laboratory, using concepts of three-dimensional typography developed by the late Muriel Cooper. The plans in chapter 4 were all drawn by Anne Beamish. Additional illustration credits are as follows: page 2, photograph courtesy of NYNEX Corporation; page 6, drawing by P. Steiner, © 1993 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc., All Rights Reserved; page 26 top, Leonardo da Vinci, "The Proportions of Man," The Bettmann Archive; page 26 bottom, still from the film *Lawnmower Man*; page 46 top, Eugène-Emmanuel

Viollet-le-Duc, "The First Hut," from *The Habitations of Man in All Ages*, translated by Benjamin Bucknall (London: Sampson Low, 1876); page 46 bottom, *Punch*, December 19, 1878 (Punch's Almanack for 1879); page 106 top, detail from Giambattista Nolli, *Nuova Pianta di Roma* (Rome, 1748); page 106 bottom, e•World screen shot courtesy of Apple Computer, Inc.; page 132, Krzysztof Wodiczko, photographs courtesy of the artist; page 162, photograph © Serge Lafontaine and Tilemachos Doukoglou, courtesy Ian Hunter.

First MIT Press paperback edition, 1996

© 1995 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from the publisher.

The book was set in Bembo and Meta by Wellington Graphics and was printed and bound in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mitchell, William J.

City of bits : space, place, and the infobahn / William J. Mitchell.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-262-13309-8 (hc. : alk. paper) — 978-0-262-63176-1 (pb. : alk. paper)

1. Computer networks. 2. Information technology. 3. Virtual reality.

I. Title.

TK5105.5.M57 1995

303.48'33—dc20

95-7212

CIP