



DESERTS and OASES

HOW PLATFORMS UNDERSTAND THE URBAN FABRIC.

Last winter term the Department for VISUAL CULTURE researched “Platform Urbanism” within the framework of the Modul Visuelle Kultur. Students made a collective effort to understand the potential effects platforms like Uber, airbnb, WeWork or Googles Sidewalk Labs have on the city.

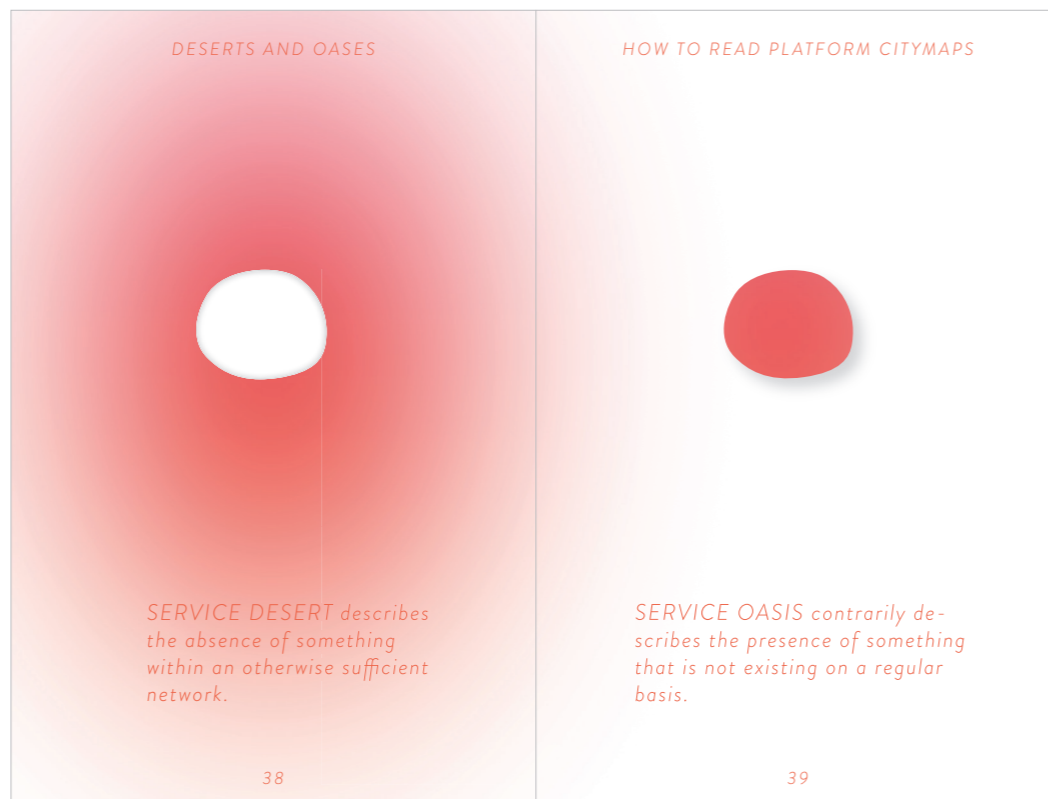
In an effort to get a vague premonition of what “Platform Urbanism” might be, we researched on these platforms potential capabilities to change our perception of cities and the built environment; to alter the urban fabric itself.

I want to understand my contribution to this collective project in a broader sense of basic research. By taking the perspective of platforms, this project strives to analyze the very nature of city-definitions platforms operate with: How these definitions are defined and by whom.

Understanding the actors, mechanisms and motivations of these definitions might be a crucial fragment of understanding the mentioned platforms and their supposed abilities to alter our own definitions of cities.

Using the example of Mobility Platforms, the following pages show an attempt to trace those definitions and mechanisms. The resulting book offers a tool to decipher the city definitions that are used by platforms.

ALEXANDER GARBER



SERVICE DESERT describes the absence of something within an otherwise sufficient network.

38

SERVICE OASIS contrarily describes the presence of something that is not existing on a regular basis.

39