Common Frameworks as Artifacts

Notes on the infrastructural monument

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The conception of an infrastructural monument must begin from the idea of the city, as a common artifact.
I.
Megastructures or ‘Monumental Follies’?
Kenzo Tange, *Tokyo Bay Project, 1960*
II.

The irreducible structure of the city as an artifact
RES PUBLICA + MONUMENTS without STRRETS or SQUARES

RES ECONOMICA

STREETS and SQUARES without MONUMENTS

CIVITAS = THE TRUE CITY
Aristotle’s Polis

City – Polis > Politics

‘Observations shows us, first, that every city (polis) is a species of association, and secondly, that all associations come into being for the sake of some good – for all men do all their acts with a view to achieving something which is, in their view, good.’ (1252a1) Politics
III.
Xi’an Horticultural Masterplan
Xi’an, China
IV. Conclusion

The Infrastructural Monument:

• should be conceived through the idea of the city
• should draw its grammar from the irreducible structure of the city
  • should be a legible and finite artifact
• is not defined by its size but by its ability to accommodate the plurality of the city