MEET THE NOMADS

After yet another climate disaster a group of friends with little hope for better times to come, join forces. The group has a wide variety of interests, expertise and knowledge. Together they form a solid team.

They have a mutual goal: Traveling and going to help out communities. They aim to break with the current system and built on the cooperative-commons model. A community where goods are made on the base of communal duty and open reciprocity. They will join an ever growing tribe of Nomads.

SOLARPUNK NOMADS



TRAVELING

They mainly use human powered vehicles, horses and solar powered or electric vehicles to travel long distances.



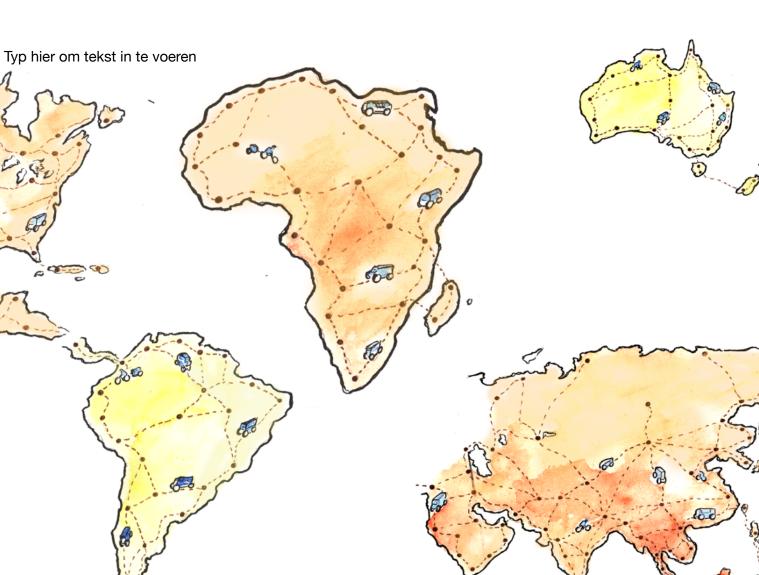
BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

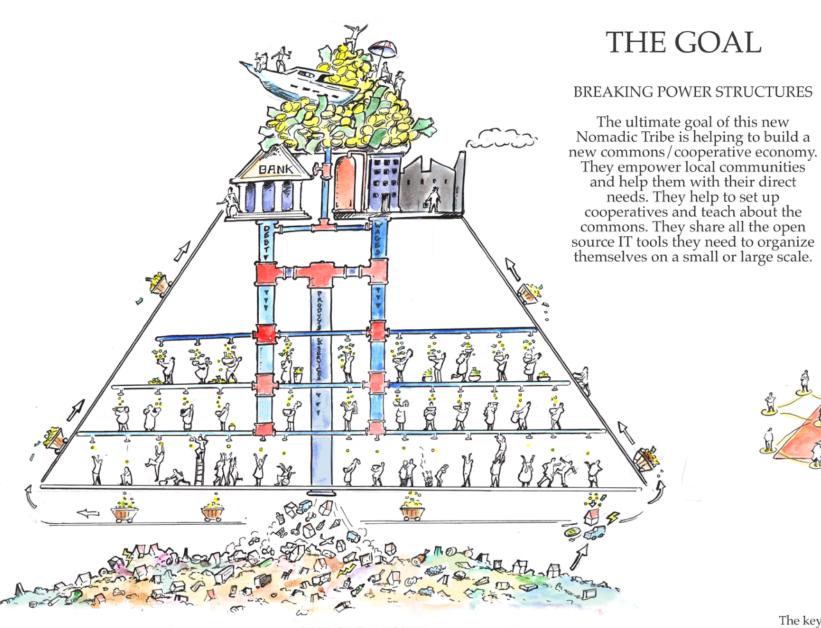
The new nomads help building houses, plant trees, implement permaculture practices, set up workshops and many other beneficial communal projects.



WORLD WIDE WEB

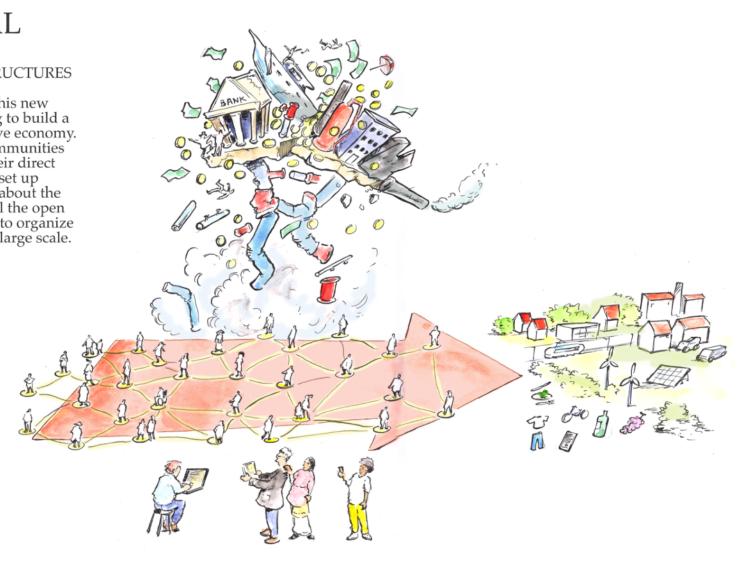
A network of routes, camps, safe houses, buildings, communal infrastructure, settlements, villages and towns are to be found all over our continents. All the infrastructure can be used by the nomads. All the land and buildings are governed and maintained by cooperatives through community land trust models.





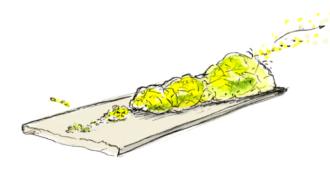
THE OLD MODEL

The old market economy was kept in place for so long and ended up creating a huge inequality. It benefited especially the billionaire elitist class by parasitizing the majority of the people. The figure shows the construction they needed to keep the status quo. This was done by controlling the banks, which they needed for money and debt creation . People were obliged to go into debt in order to buy houses . Others needed to pay higher house rents. It forced everybody to earn a wage. Large enterprises were another vehicle for wealth creation, that were once again under control of the capitalist elite. As the figure shows the real power of people as a collective has been smashed. They were isolated, pitted against one another and ultimately dependent on this inhuman system.



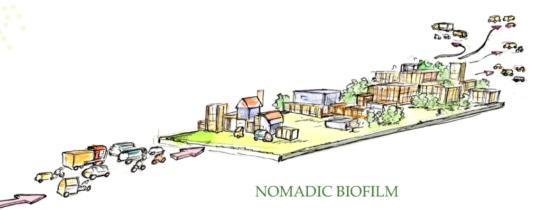
TOOLS TO ORGANIZE

The key to the solution was to install new organizational forms that allowed people to slowly gain confidence in the newly designed systems. More and more people walked away from the old system. People that before were isolated started to gather and organize themselves to produce the goods and services they needed. Smaller communities could organize themselves directly, larger communities and global networks needed IT tools to organize themselves. Software and applications similar as the former ERP (enterprise resource planning) software. They use open source, decentralized accounting tools, used graph database to visualize complex processes. They make use of AI and the semantic web (Web 3.0) to help them get new insights about the most prior needs. By abandoning the old system, soon the money of the rich became worthless and their fortresses tumbled down. The great difference in this economics of community duty and reciprocity is that people have regained control and everything is managed in cooperation rather than individually.



MICROBIC BIOFILM

The movement spreads and grows in a similar way microbes grow when they form a biofilm, a product of microbial development. It goes through different stages. First, there is the initial attachment. Then there is the irreversible attachment. The biofilm matures and finally disperses. New microbes spread out in search for new food.



In a similar way a small group of nomads arrives in a desolate impoverished town. The core team helps the residents to form a strong resilient community. In a co-participative manner they co-create new energy, residential and agricultural solutions, they help to install cooperative systems and regenerate our world. Soon their philosophy becomes accustomed and their presence is irreversible.



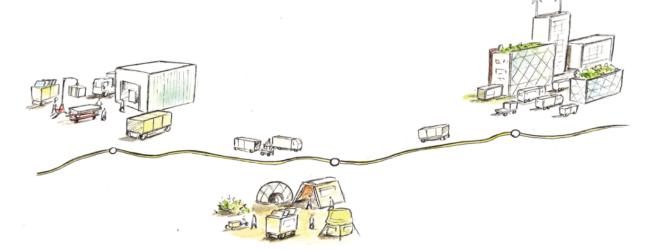
TIME TO MOVE

The new commons/cooperative economy matures and acts in favor of all its residents. The old power structures vanish and finally new groups of nomads spread out in search for new places where they can help communities.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF TRANSPORT

WORKSHOPS

They have production facilities and workshops that can provide them the goods and food they need. They have repair-workshops where they can go to if they need to fix their vehicles.



FROM LAND TO CITY

The nomads, their shelters differ in size and function. Some are just land with some basic services and some are entire cities with all the well known amenities a city has.



horse carriages

ALONG THE ROAD

The nomads have an enormous network of places, where they can spend the night, stay for a couple of weeks, remain for a season or even reside permanently.



Converted electric vans and trucks



The electrical Tuk-tuk



Electric motorbike



(Converted) electric car

A huge range of vehicles are used. Some more peculiar than others.



Modular electrical bus



High tech self driving platform cars



Solar campers and mobile homes



Long distance bicycles



Mini electric car pulling mobile furnitecture

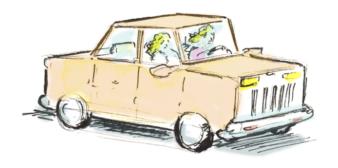


Backpack nomad

VEHICLES: production

VEHICLE WORKSHOPS

An informal economy arose. Many custom-made vehicles are designed to replace the once mass-produced automobile. Old gasoline fuel cars can be converted into environmentally friendly vehicles. Old harbor cities where a lot of scrap is gathered are the places to find a multitude of vehicle workshops. Some nomads gather old vehicles and help converting them into solar vehicles. Some are very simple and other more sophisticated.

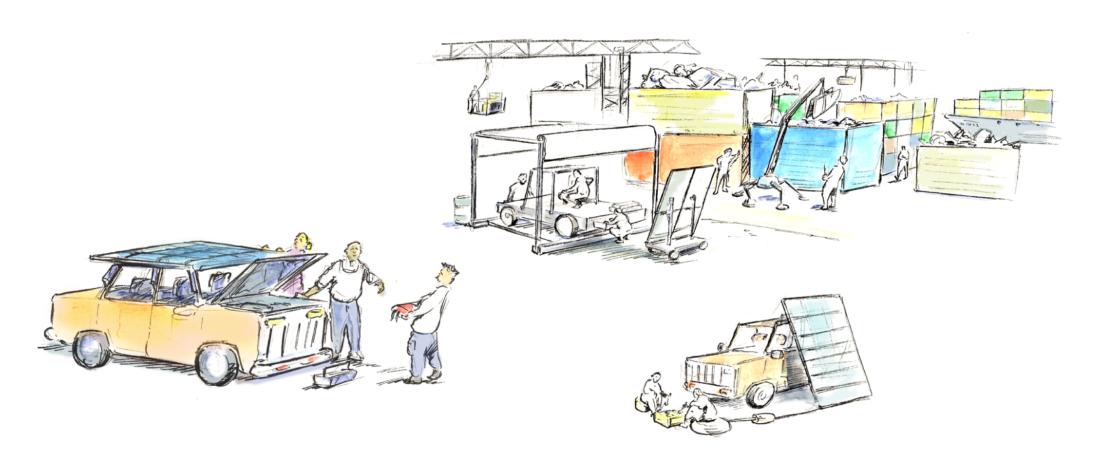


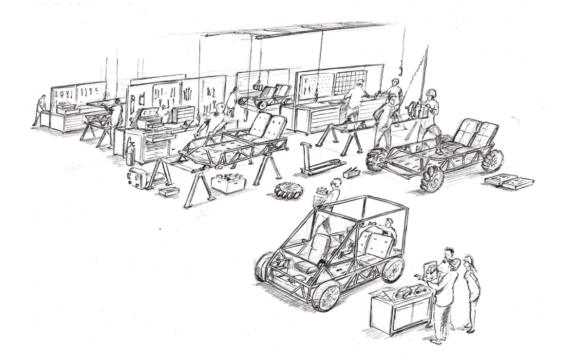
RETROFITTING OLD CARS

We entered an era of enormous creative potential. Lots of vehicles were created by former technicians that worked in automobile repair shops or for large automobile manufacturers.

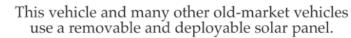
Retrofitting old cars became a very popular business. The electrical upgrading of old cars has become a very popular activity.

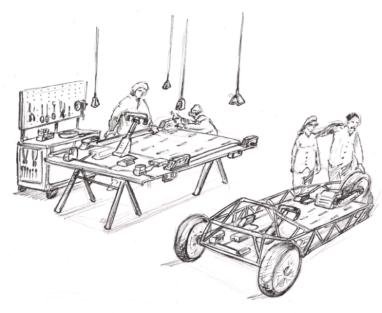
Sometimes they enforced the roof or welded extra bars onto the chassis to make it possible to install solar panels.









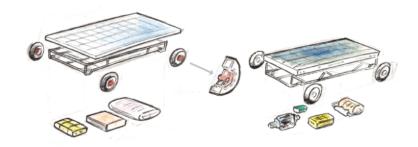


A typical local cooperatively owned space frame car workshop

3D-printing chassis

Custom made electric car design

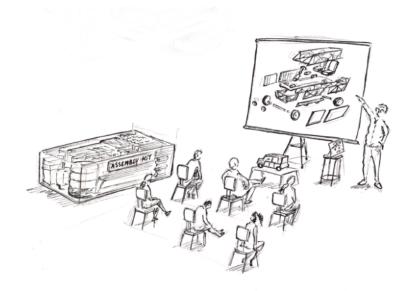
VEHICLES: maker culture





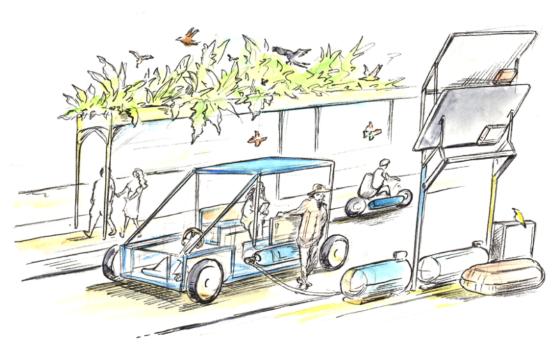
CREATIVITY

An outstanding example of the creativity of some Solar"punk" Nomads is this driverless vehicle. The old teardrop caravan design revives here. It is built on top of a space frame chassis. The vehicle has in-wheel electric motors. It has hydrogen fuel-cells and hydrogen storage. An odd mix of available High tech and Low tech.



NE W SCHOOLS

Together with this new maker culture new schools emerged. A lot of young people gained an interest in practical skills. They want to become builders and makers. In all cooperatives and in any nomadic tribe, learning and education are of paramount importance. Classes like this vehicle design course are all over the place.

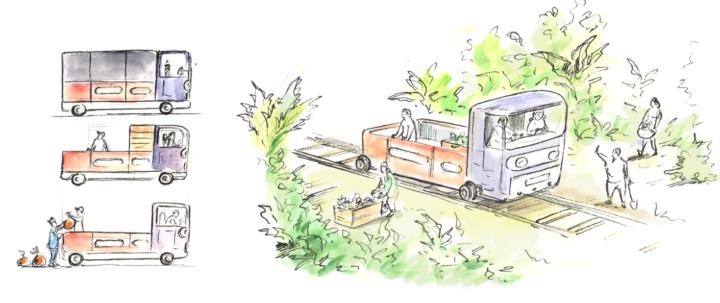


PRESSED AIR

There is a wide range of vehicles being used by nomads. Many use electric vehicles, but there are alternative sources of power as well. Such as hydrogen vehicles or these pressed air cars. These use high pressure air to create propulsion.







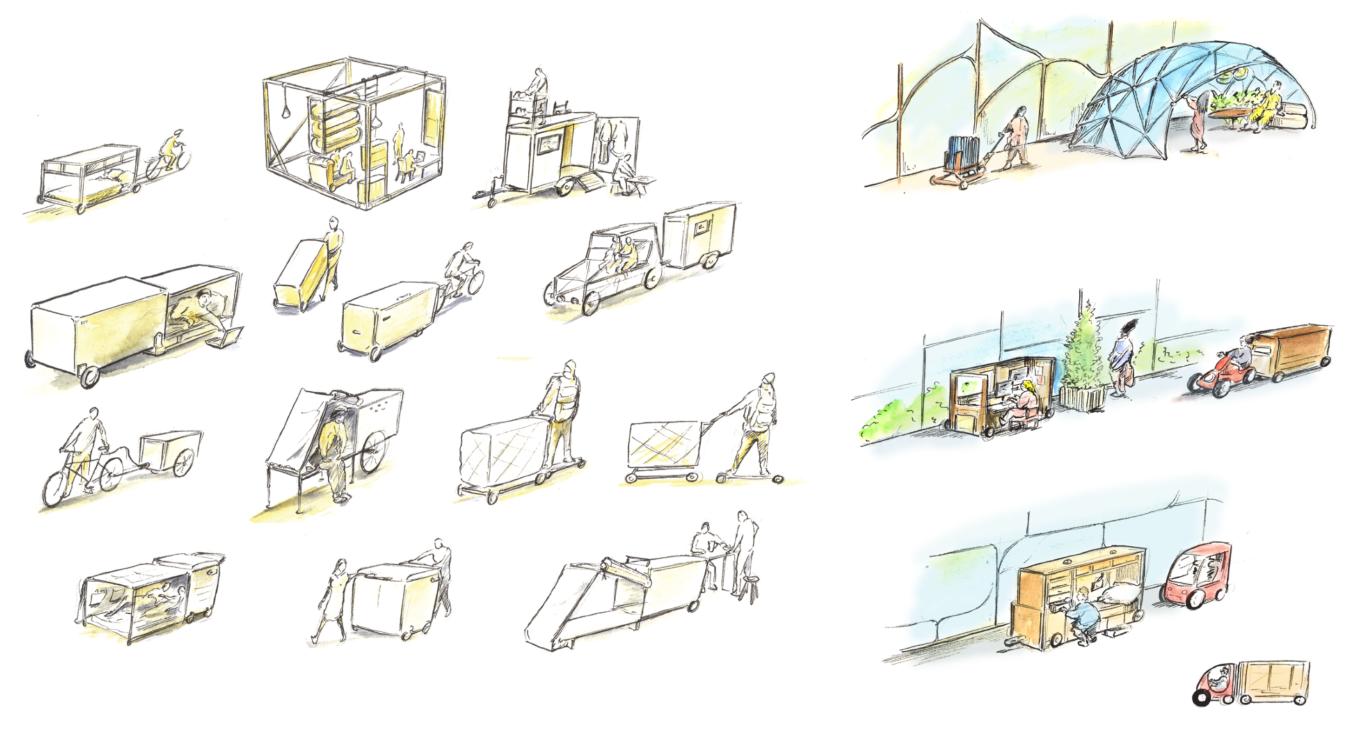
RAILS

Nomadic tribes, accustomed to having and using personal cars, opt for electric vehicles. Although the majority still drive electric vehicles ,more and more we start to see them using the rail systems. This is partly because more and more roads are being demolished to make room for nature and partly because the rail system is much more efficient. You can see converted cars, converted old trains and new rail vehicles. It won't be long before we see a transition to a global rail system.

VEHICLES: furnitecture

ARCHITECTURE OR FURNITURE?

There is a significant group of solarpunk nomads that travel light. They use small electric vehicles, often towing one or more container-like boxes. The boxes, mostly self made designs are called furnitecture. A combination of architecture and furniture. These boxes can be turned into furniture that can also be used as independent tiny houses. Some are only used in large buildings. Buildings protect them from the weather.

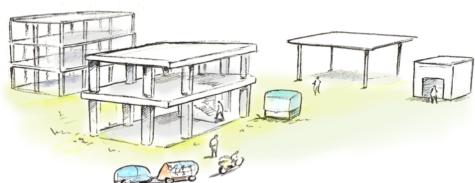


A variety of furnitecture can be used on site. Some designs are very simple and others incorporate high-tech gadgets.

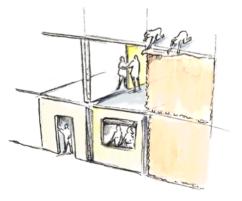
These nomadic travelers rely on a lot infrastructure that mostly consist out of big open structures. With their lightweight vehicles they can drive right in and set themselves up in a short amount of time.

PLACES: from building to superstructure

A growing number of historic properties have been left vacant since the previous system began to fall apart. The nomads quickly took advantage of these buildings. It is a common practice to strip the buildings down. Quite often the basic skeletal structure is sufficient enough to accommodate passing nomadic groups. Some nomads prefer to upgrade the building to a next level. They become permanent places to live and have many amenities. There are even places, such as old industrial campuses that have been turned into superstructures.







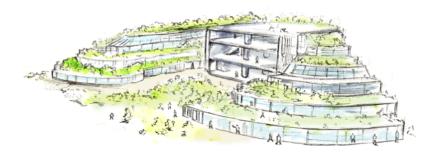


COMING AND GOING

The nomads store their materials in lockable boxes. They use the material to build temporary camps.

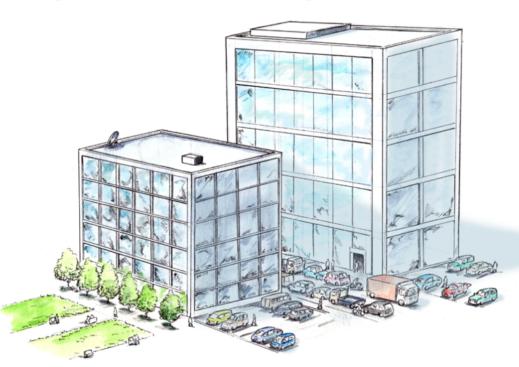


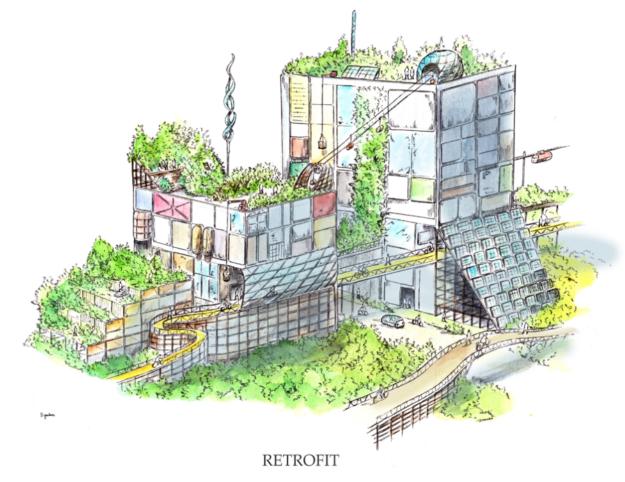




SUPERSTRUCTURES

An old corporate HQ is transformed into a terraced superstructure.

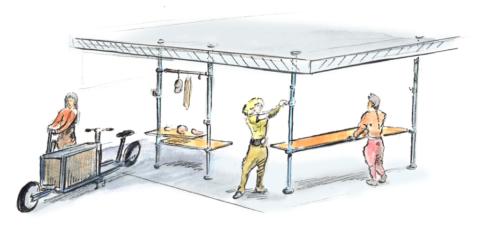


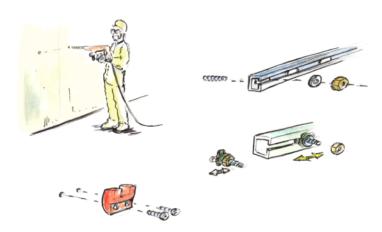


An office being retrofitted - before and after

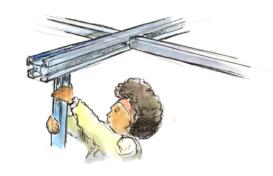
PLACES: old offices

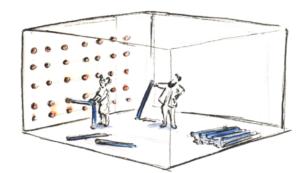
It requires special approaches to use these giant open spaces. Nomads are very good in remodeling such spaces. Most of the strategies are focussed on constructing small privates places within the larger spaces. Some are shown here.

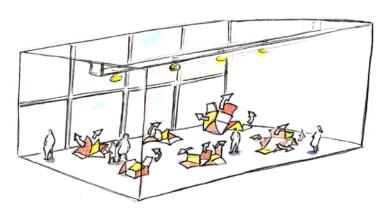






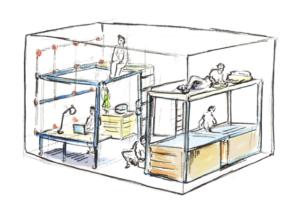


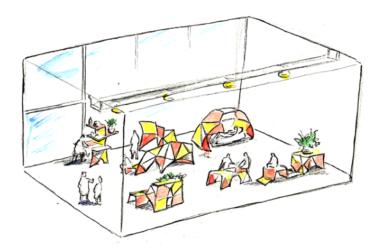






Jack-posts and all kinds of building materials are used to make furniture and small room divisions at a glance.







WALL CLIMBING GRIPS

Nomads use kits to quickly build small spaces within these large spaces. They use 3D-printed blocks similar to wall climbing grips. They also use fixing systems that are used for technical installations.

ORIGAMI FURNITURE

Some groups have turned to origami. They use high quality fabrics to design folding patterns. The models are lightweight that they can carry with them or store easily. In minutes they can turn an entire office into a comfy community village.

FESTIVALS, FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS

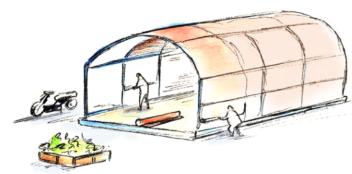
International trade fairs are recognized for their display booths. Festivals and cultural events are specialized in setting up stages in minimal time. Many nomads have a past in these niches.

RECYCLING

Nomads are excellent recyclers. They have specialized teams that go to villages and industrial areas in search of reusable materials.



Plastic tarps from old trucks iare collected.



This tarp or other weatherproof fabrics are used as a wall coverings.



Two nomads go to a former bank and dismantle higher quality windows.





The many metal signs are used as roof tiles or to make furniture.



REUSE

Some up-cycled houses are real works of art. Very personalized solutions made by real artist craftsmen.



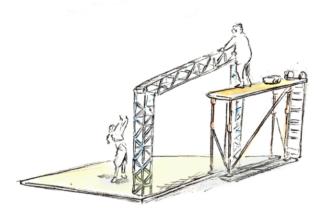


TEMPORARY HOUSES

This skeleton of a quonset house is used on a an every year base by some traveling solarpunks.



Some even use the large metal signs to create walls/dividers inside buildings.

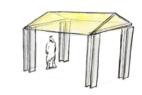


New base structures are built.

PLACES: pavilion structures

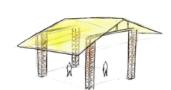
CREATIVE INTERPRETATION





Many industrial materials can be used for the load bearing columns, such as these steel beams.





Sometimes old infrastructure is dismantled, like this crane.





Even large tree trunks are used to make a simple pavilion.



ARRIVAL

A group arrives at an unused pavilion somewhere in the woods.

SIMPLE BUT EFFICIENT

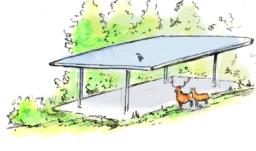
A popular housing solution, used by nomads is the pavilion structure. It is quite simple in design and provides protection from the natural elements. The nomads are quite creative when it comes to creating pavilion structures. Some are brand new and made with the finest materials available, but others are made of whatever they can find in the direct environment. the direct environment.



USING THE PAVILION

The open pavilion is converted into a temporary home. The furnitecture pieces are an ideal solution to shape and decorate the interior space.

Roof and floor structures are used to seal the interior space using high-performance weather-resistant fabrics.



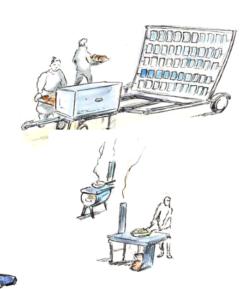






ROLL IN ROLL OUT

Groups of nomads drive their vehicles in and out of the pavilion.



SOLAR TECH

The nomads have mobile devices that allow them to produce electricity, heat and drinking water. The small illustrations show some wood- or solar -powered cooking devices.

Campsite

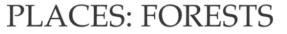
REPURPOSED CAMPSITE

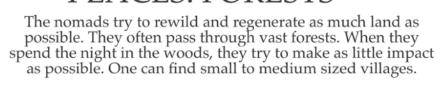
A popular Solarpunk nomad site is a repurposed nomadic campsite. They form an interesting bridge between the more alternative nomads and those with a more conventional life. They often go to these places to have fun. The nomadic campsites are popular destinations for day trips. You can discover new ways of living here, there are workshops and all sorts of fascinating things to see and do.

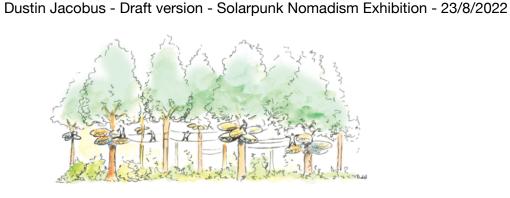


- 1. A hangar with furnitecture designs
- 2. Parking where old vehicles are turned into hybrid solar electric vehicles
- 3. Old check-in is turned into a hackerspace
- 4. Food truck market place
- 5. Vegetable garden
- 6. Tiny house campsite
- 7. The old restaurant and bar is turned into a community kitchen
- 8. Public shower hall and outdoor pool
- 9. Tent, Yurt and Tipi campsite

- 10. Geodesic dome house
- 11. (Hanging) sleeping pods
- 12. Community workshops & fablabs



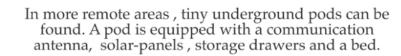








Some nomads use simple compact sleeping pods. They anchor and tie the pods to the trunk. They use ropes and gondola systems to store and transport their equipment.







SUBTERRANEAN HOUSES

In some forests you can find, hidden among the plants, famous underground "earthship"-like villages.











YURT TREEHOUSE

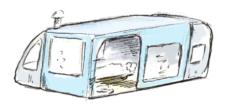
they found creative ways to build tree houses with minimal impact like this yurt-treehouse.











STREET FURNITURE

An interesting practice of the hikers is the use of specially designed street furniture. These sturdy designs withstand the weather. When hikers arrive, the furniture can be used as indoor furniture. There are special tents for this.



TENTS, CONTAINERS AND THE COMMONS

There are many nomads who find walking, biking and horseback riding more attractive. They refuse to use electric vehicles. They have more radical ideas and see it as an opportunity to make their footprint even smaller.

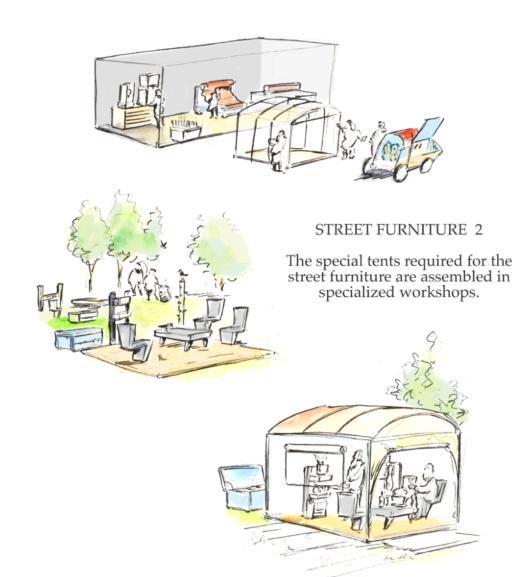
Basically, their lifestyle and activities are not much different from other nomads. They only move much slower and cover a much shorter distance. But they too can make use of all the infrastructure and services managed by the many co-ops.

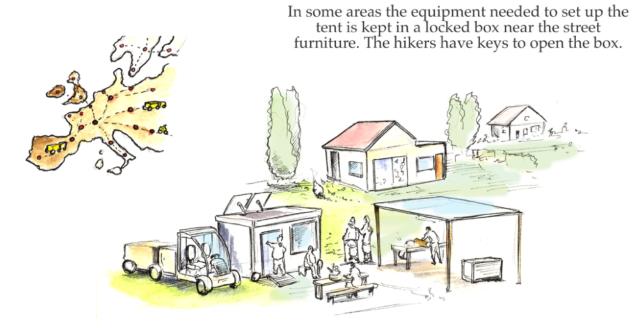




SHIP CONTAINERS

Containers were already frequently repurposed and used in the past. Due to globalization and the mass movement of goods abroad, these containers are still abundant. Nomads placed them along hiking trails and travel routes. They stand there waiting to be used by the traveling hikers.





COMMON LAND

Hikers also use existing houses and land that are still privately owned. Often they stay on the property and use the facilities and help the residents (mostly older people) in return. When these people die, they often hand over their property to the commons.

ADAPTION



Nomads have learned to adapt to any environment. Sometimes they travel in harsh climates. But even there they found a way to survive. They pass mountains, large lakes and swamps, coastal areas, dilapidated cities, ruins, industrial polluted areas, abandoned infrastructure, deserts and more.

Their experience gets very useful when they help communities residing in remote places.







ABANDONED MINE

Nomads reach oan old abandoned mine. They are on a mission to regenerate the region. They soon built barracks out of old recycled materials. Later on, the new village can be used by new groups.



ROAD INTERCHANGE

Another group arrives at an old, overgrown, unused intersection. They checked the quality of this old infrastructure and found it to be still safe. In a few days they turned it into a makeshift camp. Maybe they stay to take the road infrastructure apart and reuse the materials.



DESERT VILLAGE

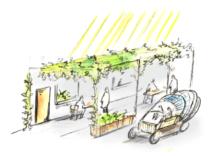
An important nomadic route passes near an abandoned desert village. Here they built this partly subterranean dwelling. A structure covered under sand that gives them shelter.



NEW VS OLD

New materials and techniques are used to harden the sand . Yet inside the structure there are lots of low tech solutions. Many other materials, that once were abundant are no longer available. So they must rely on ancient knowledge to meet their needs.

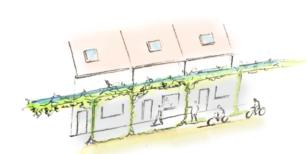






ANTI-HEAT

The old city produces a lot of heat, so there are some simple tweaks to address these issues.



AQUADUCT

Water is regulated in a more natural way.



WORKSHOPS

Instead of few large companies dominating the entire market, thousands of new small workshops are being set up.

MISSIONS: urban regeneration

One of the Solarpunk movement its main focuses is the urban habitat, where the majority of people live. In the future, even more people will move to cities and many villages will slowly die out. Nature gets the playground it needs. But our cities still need a lot of investment. They are made of dead materials that degrade rapidly, materials that have a huge carbon footprint. Our cities have little greenery and the public space is underutilized. Pollution is high and there are few integrated farming practices. Therefore, urban regeneration is very important for nomads and local communities.



ROOF SPACE Effective use of the roofs, solar power generation and lush gardens are introduced.



URBAN FARMING

The new public space will be used for various projects. A popular activity is farming.



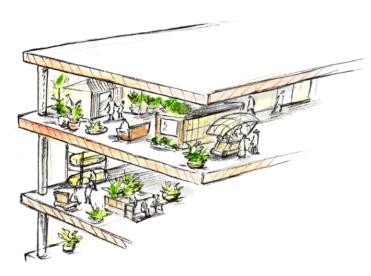
A REGENERATED CITY

Cities are adapting to the fluctuating and sometimes devastating impacts of climate change.



COOPERATIVES

Hundreds of cooperatives have been established. This plant nurturing cooperative is a popular example with older generations.



SUPERSTRUCTURES

Many properties are transferred to the commons. People help build new smart housing solutions.



MISSIONS: greening

One of the main demands in many cities is to make them greener. Bring nature into the city. Many cities were mismanaged. The demand is high but fortunately there are many people who want to make this happen. Nomad groups arrive in cities with a mission to create a green urban environment.

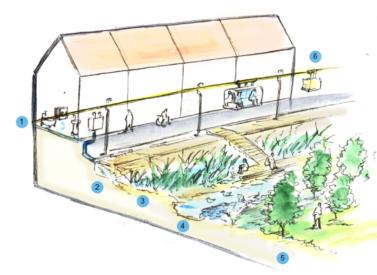






WOODEN BRIDGES

These bridges originate from Japan. Thanks to the multicultural composition of nomadic tribes, many techniques and best practices from around the world have been introduced everywhere. These wooden bridges use lumber from native trees. They are constructed with other truss structures, used for climbing and hanging plants.



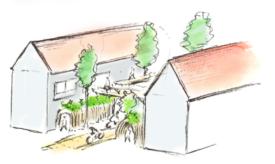
PURIFYING WATER

1) wastewater from domestic households 2) wastewater infiltrates vertically into worm farms 3) water flows horizontally towards reed-beds 4) water flows into ponds 4) water flows into areas with swale-loving trees 5) new cable car system



SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD TURNED INTO GREEN HEAVEN

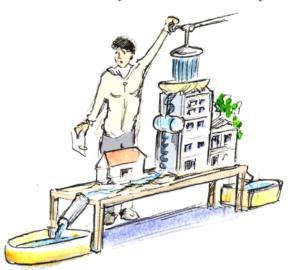
This illustration shows how the community transformed a typically dull, gray suburban neighborhood into a vibrant, green environment. Asphalt on the roads has been removed. Pastures and poultry have been introduced, microforests have been planted, grasses, shrubs and herbs are growing along new hiking and biking trails. New small ponds have been created and hanging gardens are everywhere.





LIVING VEGETAL CITY

Many horticultural creations are grown in the new green city. Walkways made from living trees are very common. They provide protection from the sun and rain and are very useful for various species.



PURIFYING WATER

Among the many profiles needed to green our cities are water experts. They experiment with all sorts of new low-tech and hightech techniques to manage water in the cities. They try to mimic the flow of water in nature and for them it is an important component of urban ecosystems.

MISSIONS: rewilding

We need to give space back to nature. For nomads this is a very urgent and popular task. Around the globe, hundreds of rewilding projects are taking place simultaneously.



REGROWING FORESTS

Rewilding experts, biologists, nature conservationists and permaculturists and many others are joining forces to grow new forests with native species. They help forests by replenishing nutrients to the soil.



VERNACULAR KNOWLEDGE

Again the importance of indigenous local knowledge has proven to be key to the success of rewilding operations. Many old uses have been reintroduced. Here they use the ancient terracotta technique to keep the seedlings moist.



SCHOOLS

To organize rewilding operations, the nomads established many specialized schools. They can be compared to nature education centers, but are fully dedicated to restoration and rewilding projects.



NEW TASKS NEW PROFILES

Many people contribute to these complex rewilding efforts. Former landscape architects quickly applied their experience and knowledge to help plan and organize large-scale operations.

Farmers, gardeners and many hobbyists have become soil experts. They join nomadic tribes and scan the ground. Their expertise is crucial.

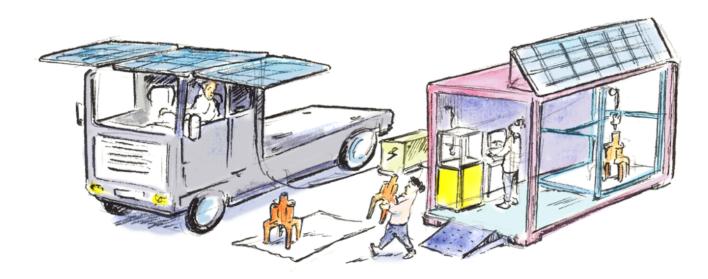


THE GREAT GREEN WALL

The green wall project started at the borders of Africa's Sahel desert and aimed to restore nature and prevent further desertification. It has inspired many nomads to start similar projects elsewhere in the world.

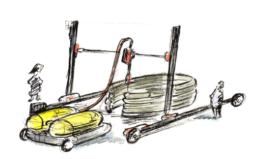
MISSIONS: construction teams

Lots of cities have been neglected for decades. This neglect has had an enormous impact on the remaining infrastructure and architecture. Due to the economic recession not much of the traditional construction industry has survived. There is a global shortage of construction materials and little progress is being made in the development of new materials. The result is further impoverishment and degradation of entire neighborhoods. Luckily there are nomadic groups, specialized in the reconstruction of such urban areas.



MOBILE WORKSHOPS

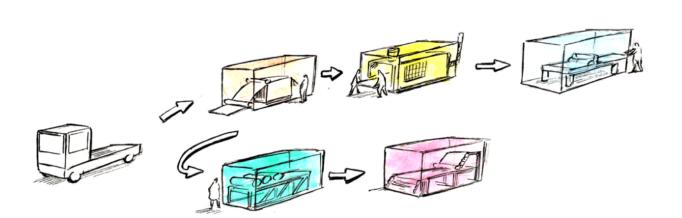
Mobile workshops used by nomads are inspired by FabLabs. They use custom made containers. This one is organized as a 3D-printing workshop. Nomads can print objects up to 1.80 m in size.





3D PRINTED HOUSE

There are many printed houses. Nomads have developed unique largescale 3D printers that can be easily moved. New technologies made it possible to print with local materials (such as mud and clay).



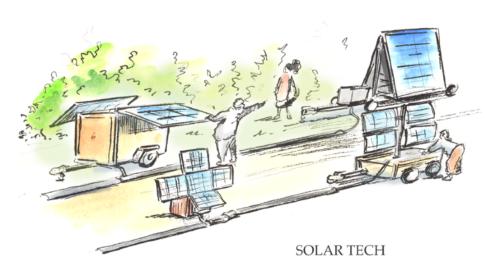


REBUILDING RUINED CITIES

Nomads usually head towards the old ruined parts of the city. Where there is still a lot of material to be recycled. They have a wide range of mobile container workshops to choose from. They recycle, up-cycle and manufacture their materials on site. Specialized construction teams build new adapted buildings.

MISSIONS: resiliency

There are still many communities living in small villages or in other remote areas. Nomadic tribes help them become self-sufficient. They focus on a variety of topics: energy, drinking water, heating, sustainable technology, sanitation, farming, nature conservation, maintenance, cooperative organization, healthcare, spiritual development, education..... Perhaps not surprisingly, almost everyone can help.

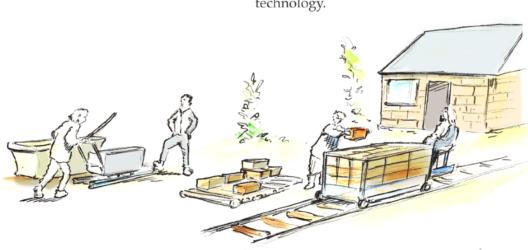


Although the amount of solar technology is limited and still has its ecological impact, it continues to improve and new, better and more sustainable technologies emerge. Specialized nomadic groups have a lot of expertise when it comes to mobile and DIY solar technology.



WATER CAPTURE

Many very large and old, expensive municipal water systems became too complicated to maintain. In addition to remaining water mains, communities are investing in local water catchment systems.



RAILS AND VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

There is a revival of vernacular architecture. Techniques such as the rammed earth technique are used when appropriate. Smaller local rail systems are designed as the main mode of transportation.



SOLAR COOKING

A slower lifestyle is now possible now, so solar cooking can be done in places with sufficient sunlight.



RENEWABLES

The range of renewable technologies is expanding rapidly. Solarpunk nomads present the best practices to local communities.



VACANT BUILDINGS

The local infrastructure gets retrofitted. Its implementation depends on the needs, available material and labor. This building has been converted in a multi-level vegetable garden with its own water collection system.