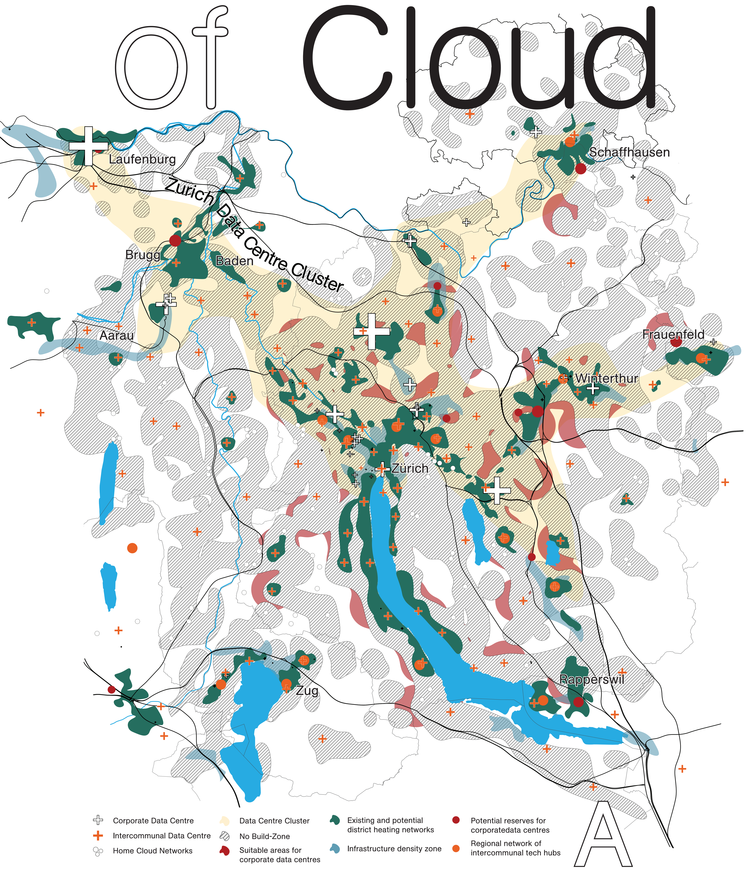
ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY
Power to the People

The Production of Cloud



A CONSTITUTION

In the name of responsible and democratic digital development, mindful of responsibility towards society, territory and the environment, resolved to organise data infrastructures, digital services and artificial intelligence in a transparent, traceable and common-good-oriented manner, determined to safeguard digital sovereignty, ecological responsibility and social inclusion, the Zurich Data Centre Cluster adopts the following Constitution:

LOCATION

***Art. 1** Principles*
1. A framework shall be established for the responsible placement of commercial data centres in Zurich's Cluster.
2. The placement of commercial data centres shall serve the public interest and take account of territorial, environmental and social concerns.

***Art. 2** No-Build Zones*
1. Areas unsuitable for construction shall be designated as No-Build Zones.
2. Natural hazard zones, farmland, forests and water bodies shall in particular be excluded from development.

***Art. 3** Evaluation of suitable areas*
1. Suitable areas are evaluated in accordance with technical requirements, environmental effects and social performance.
2. Each individual site is ranked according to these criteria.
3. In this way, the future territorial potential of the Canton of Zurich shall be identified.

***Art. 4** Urban-scale impact*
1. The legal planning process shall be arranged in such a way that data centre development contributes positively to the urban and territorial environment.
2. Strategic design instruments may be used for this purpose.

ENERGY DEMAND

***Art. 5** Limitation*
1. The energy demand of commercial data centres must not exceed 20 per cent of Switzerland's total energy demand.
2. The competent authorities shall take the measures required to ensure compliance with this limit.

***Art. 6** Renewable energy*
1. Intermunicipal data centres shall be powered by renewable energy generated within the municipalities concerned.

DATA INFRASTRUCTURES

***Art. 7** Zoning*
1. AI Data centre construction is strictly limited to prenegotiated industrial zones

***Art. 8** Frugal Scale*
1. All new AI data centers must not exceed 10 MW

***Art. 9** Efficiency Parameters*
1. All newly built AI data centers have to be within 500 meters of the railway corridor and within a 1 km radius of a substation

WASTE HEAT

***Art. 10** Heat as Territorial Resource*
1. Waste heat from data centres, industry, waste incineration and other infrastructures shall be treated as a shared territorial resource shaping settlement, local activities and everyday life.

***Art. 11** Local Heat Networks*
1. Waste heat shall support integrated local heat networks connected to housing, agriculture, industry, public programmes and storage infrastructures.

***Art. 12** Multi-Scalar Systems*
1. Waste heat distribution systems shall connect household, neighbourhood, regional and metropolitan scales through shared heat networks and storage systems.

***Art. 13** Seasonal Resilience*
1. Seasonal storage, thermal exchange and diversified producers and users shall strengthen territorial resilience across interconnected heat networks.

BIG TECH

***Art. 17** Decoupling*
1 As the expansion of data centres in the Cluster is not directly linked to the expansion of Big Tech. Data centre development shall be planned independently of the growth strategies of individual large technology corporations.

***Art. 18** Regional Network*
1. The Region Zurich Data Centre Cluster shall be organised on a polycentric basis.
2. Excessive concentration of tech ecosystem (technological power and digital infrastructure) in the urban core shall be reduced.
3. Workforce and digital infrastructure shall be distributed to secondary municipalities by:
   a. Means of the public transportation system
   b. The capacity of the place in terms of population
   c. The proximity to the academy ecosystem
   d. The amount of tax income that the municipalities would benefit from
   e. The amount of tax costs that the tech ecosystem would pay in that place
   f. Respecting and leveraging existing local regulatory frameworks and legal benefits

***Art. 19** Diversification of the ecosystem*
1. The Cluster shall promote the coexistence of large technology firms, smaller technology enterprises and public-interest services.
2. The Cluster shall respect the different functions of the above described entities in equal manner and therefore seen as a multifunctional centre.
3. Diversification is achieved when:
   a. Ownership is not limited to one owner.
   b. Maintenance is subdivided into the different owners accordingly.
   c. Different usage and user can occur at the same.

***Art. 20** Public space*
1. Public space within technological clusters shall remain genuinely public.
2. It must not in substance be transformed into a privately controlled public space.
3. It must avoid excessive enclosure, barriers, surveillance and commodification.

***Art. 21** Mobility*
1. Multifunctional centers shall be developed on the basis of controlled car traffic.
2. Pedestrian access and public transport shall have priority.
3. A low-car ecology shall be promoted.

***Art. 22** Ground floors for civic use*
1. The ground floor of every technology-related structure shall serve the public.
2. These spaces shall remain open and dedicated to civic uses.
3. They may in particular include open-source workshops, libraries and collaborative spaces.

***Art. 23** Fiscal benefits*
1. Fiscal revenues generated by Big Tech shall be used in part to support smaller and structurally weaker economies.
2. They shall in particular contribute to the improvement of multifunctional centres.

INTER-COMMUNAL DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ECOLOGIES OF DATA

***Art. 29** Dual infrastructure principle*
1. Two forms of data storage shall be promoted:
   a. communal data centres for municipalities, citizens and local enterprises;
   b. decentralised storage systems for residents integrated into new buildings.
2. Both forms shall be developed in a complementary manner.

***Art. 30** Control over data*
1. Every person has the right to decide where their data is stored.
2. Every person has the right to know how their data is processed, what it is used for and who has access to it.

***Art. 31** Long-term independence*
1. A decentralised digital storage network shall be built.
2. It shall strengthen digital independence and secure essential digital services in the long term.

***Art. 32** Education*
1. Schools and municipalities shall promote education in the use of data.
2. Such education shall be accessible to all.

***Art. 33** Financing*
1. Communal and decentralised digital infrastructures shall be financed through taxes.
2. The installation of decentralised storage systems in new buildings may be encouraged through tax incentives.