# LUXURY AND PRECARITY OF LIVING AND WORKING

WORKERS OF THE TECHNOSPHERE

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The technosphere is related to the Anthropocene, the geological era when humans have emerged as the dominant forces shaping the planet. The cybernetic aspect of the technosphere relates to the increasing autonomy and rise of technology. Automation causes manual, precarious labour to shift to online platforms.
New jobs supporting and desgining emerging technologies that shape the labour of modern society are constantly popping up. Some are easily noticed in public, others aren't.

The technosphere has a drastic impact on the way people work. The gig economy has invaded many job environments largely based on temporary labor or freelance work. This flexibility brings many job opportunities. Working through digital platforms create freedom to roam the world while practicing our jobs. Are our ways of living and working shifting, from a sedentary to a nomadic lifestyle? The workers of the technosphere can move from city to city. It's not neccesary for them to have a fixed living base, they can work remotely from any location. We chose 15 modern workers that grabbed our attention. By making a catalogue of personas and their living space supported by found references, we try to shine a light on their work and lifestyle. We zoom out further locating their interiors in a bigger scale and looking for the duality of the luxurious and precarious nature surrounding these technosphere workers.

Mumtaaz Viaene
Stan Vrebos

CLICKFARMER

UBER DRIVER

ETHICAL HACKER

HUMAN UBER

DEEPFAKE ACTOR

TINDER COACH

SCAMMER

CHUGGER

GAME STREAMER

FOOD DELIVERER

AMAZON WORKER

LIME JUICER

AI INFLUENCER

CONSPIRACY THEORIST

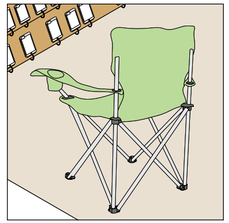
VIRTUAL MINER

DROPSHIPPER

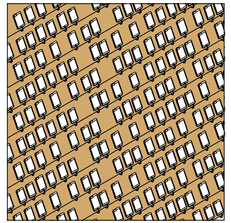
Chinese district at night

# CLICKFARMER

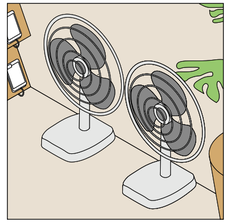
In a click farm, online bought followers, likes, comments and views are created. The farmers get paid according to their clickingspeeds.



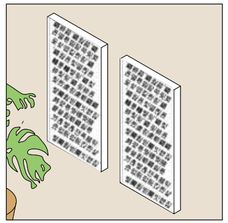
1. A clickfarmer has to stay in the same position all day, so a comfortable chair with an easy access drinkholder cup is a necessary luxary in order to preform the job.



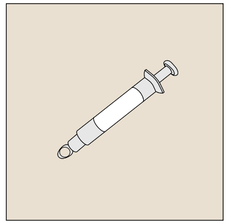
2. Often one clickfarmer operates large racks with many phones mounted on it, constantly searching for error pop-ups.



3. Many of these click farms are located in China, Thailand and India, the hot and humid climate in combination with the heat of the electronics create a harsh working environment.



4. The click farms are not regulated, as they are illegal operations. This created little social, mental and physical security for the people working in clickfarms.

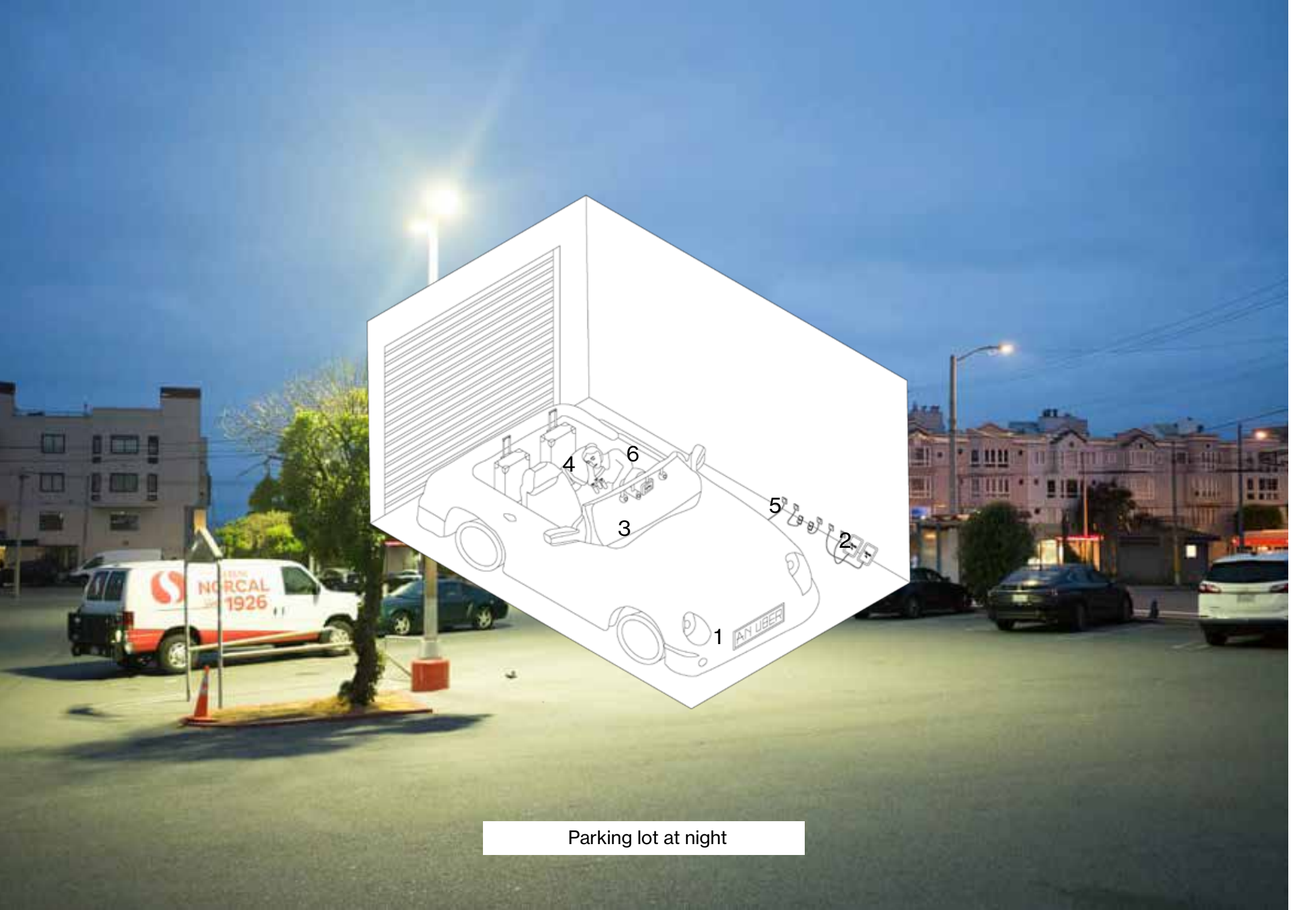


5. RSI or Repetitive strain injury is an injury from scrolling to much on your phone, finger training tools can help people from avoiding these injuries.

6. The living conditions of tempworkers in South-East Asian densely populated megacities are very precarious. Many people are forced to live in very small places.

Facebook  Menlo Park HQ, Silicon Valley, Gehry Partners

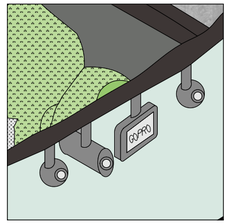
Klong Toey slum, Bangkok



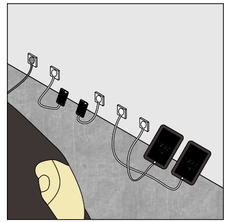

Parking lot at night

# UBER DRIVER

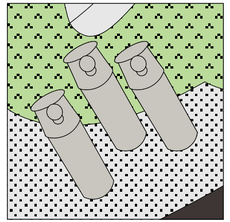
Uber allows people who own a vehicle to sign up and become a driver, passengers who want to have a ride can call for a car using the Uber app in their smartphone.



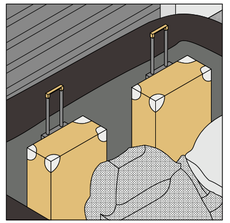
1. With roadrage and increased pressure from insurance companies, dashcams are becoming more common in cars.



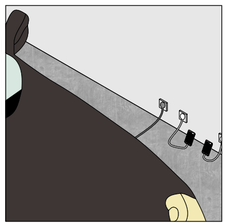
2. Today's taxi driver uses a range of screens to get around. They are used for navigation and sometimes to display ads.



3. Complaints about violence from uber clients are increasingly being reported on dashcams and published on Youtube. This Taco Bell executive even lost his job after attacking an Uber driver.



4. With low wages, large costs and little security, some Uber drivers in densily populated areas are left to live inside their own cars.

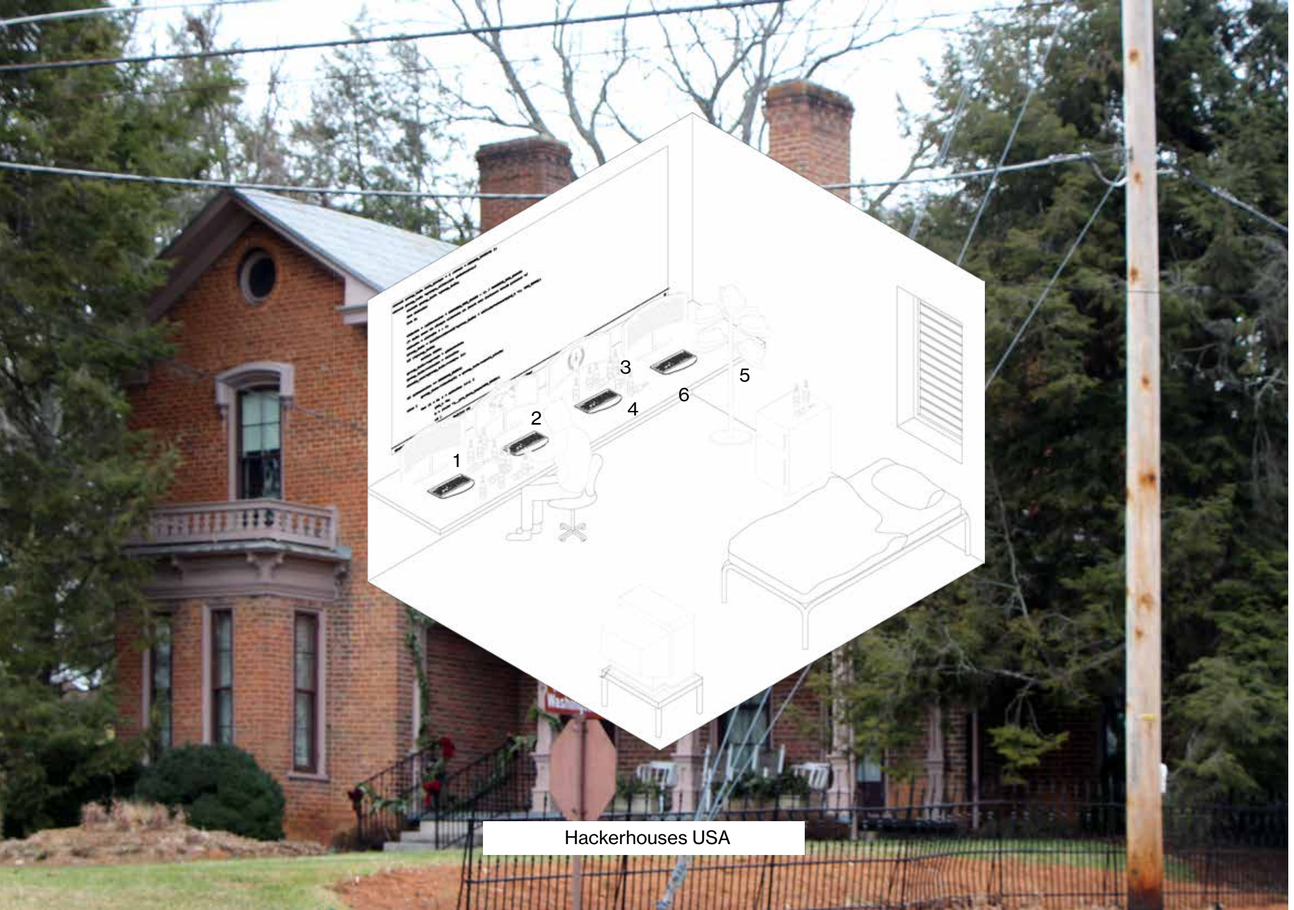


5. There is a double narrative of electronic cars as THE "ecological solution" for the global traffic and pollution problem.

6. In lots of parking grounds in LA people living in their cars are being found.

Uber co-founder Garrett Camp $72.5 million dollars home in Beverly Hills, California

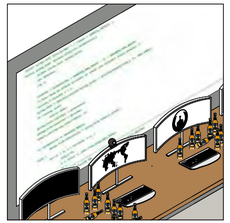
Uber driver sleeping in his own car, LA



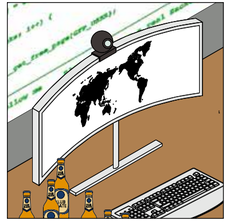

Hackerhouses USA

# ETHICAL HACKER

An ethical hacker, or white hat hacker, is an information security expert who attempts to penetrate digital systems to find security vulnerabilities.



1. Hackerspaces, like this one in Berlin, are important plaforms where hackers come together and seek out new ways of dealing with the technosphere.

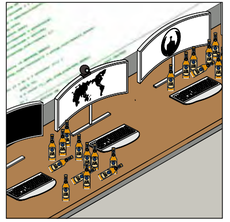


2. The internet is globally connected. You never know where the person you are talking to actually comes from.

3. The Guy Fawkes mask is associated with Anonymous. This anti-establishmement movement operates through cyber attacks of several governments and corporations.

4. Club Mate has developed a following in computer hacker culture and tech start-ups, especially in Europe. With hacketons (marathons for hackers) where allnighters are very common.

5. White hat hackers, ontrasted with black hat, a malicious hacker, the name comes from Western films, where heroic and antagonistic cowboys might traditionally wear a white and a black hat respectively.



6. Hacker rooms are often portrayed in popular culture, this contrasts with the less-glamorous reality of many hackers.

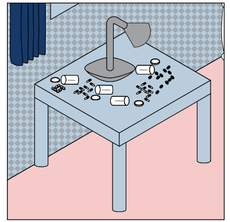
Exterior Hacker House Paris

Co-living in Hackerhouse, Paris

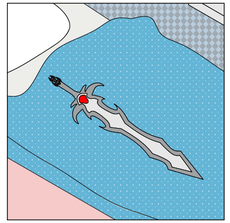
Singapore labourhouses

# HUMAN UBER

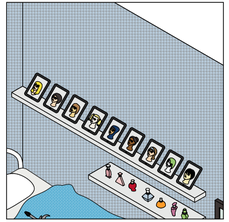
Japanese researcher Jun Rekimoto has developed a special screen that can be strapped to a person's face and allow them to go out into the world on your behalf.



1. Representing different individuals every day can result in dissociative identity disorder. These medications can help with this mental disease.



2. You have no idea who represents you, what their intentions and ideas are.



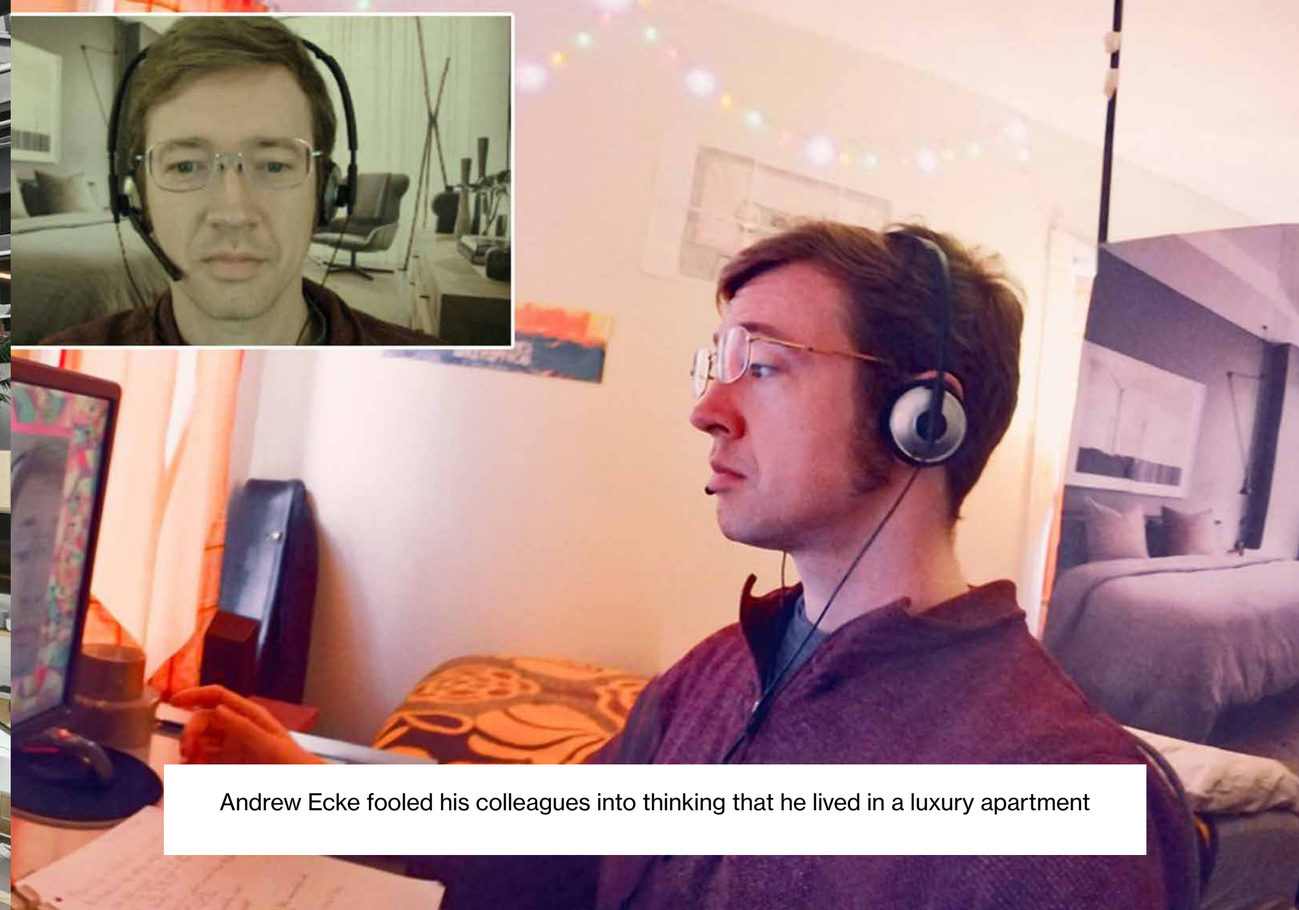
3. One person can represent many different people, taking on many identities and personalities.

4. A human uber uses your perfume, a persons smell is important for the associations with them.

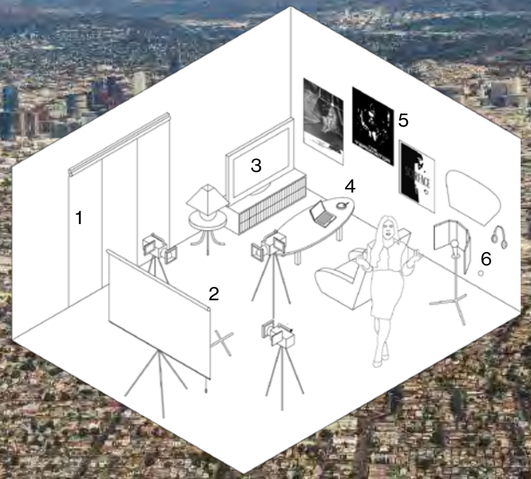
5. A human uber has to look in the mirror to see who (s)he represents.

6. A human uber needs to dress like the person that (s)he represents.

SONY (funding human uber project) HQ



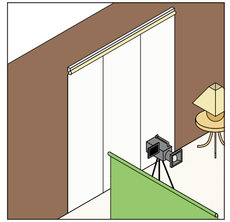
Andrew Ecke fooled his colleagues into thinking that he lived in a luxury apartment



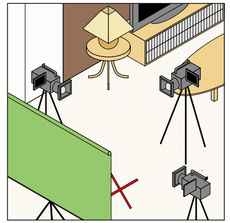

Housing crisis LA

# DEEPFAKE ACTOR

The term deepfake is typically used to refer to a video that has been edited using an algorithm to replace the actor's face in the original video with someone else (especially a public figure).



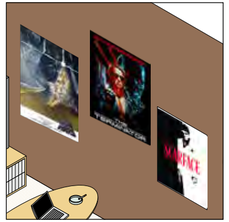
1. Mirror practice, a common exercise mimicing facial expressions.



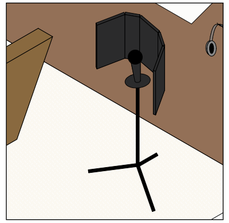
2. Face mapping, a complete image is generated combining shots from three angles.

3. Deepfake videos are created by video footage analysis, where plenty of shots are analyzed containing different emotions and angles.

4. Smoking is proven to be more popular amoung actors, because their work is focused on their oral expressions.



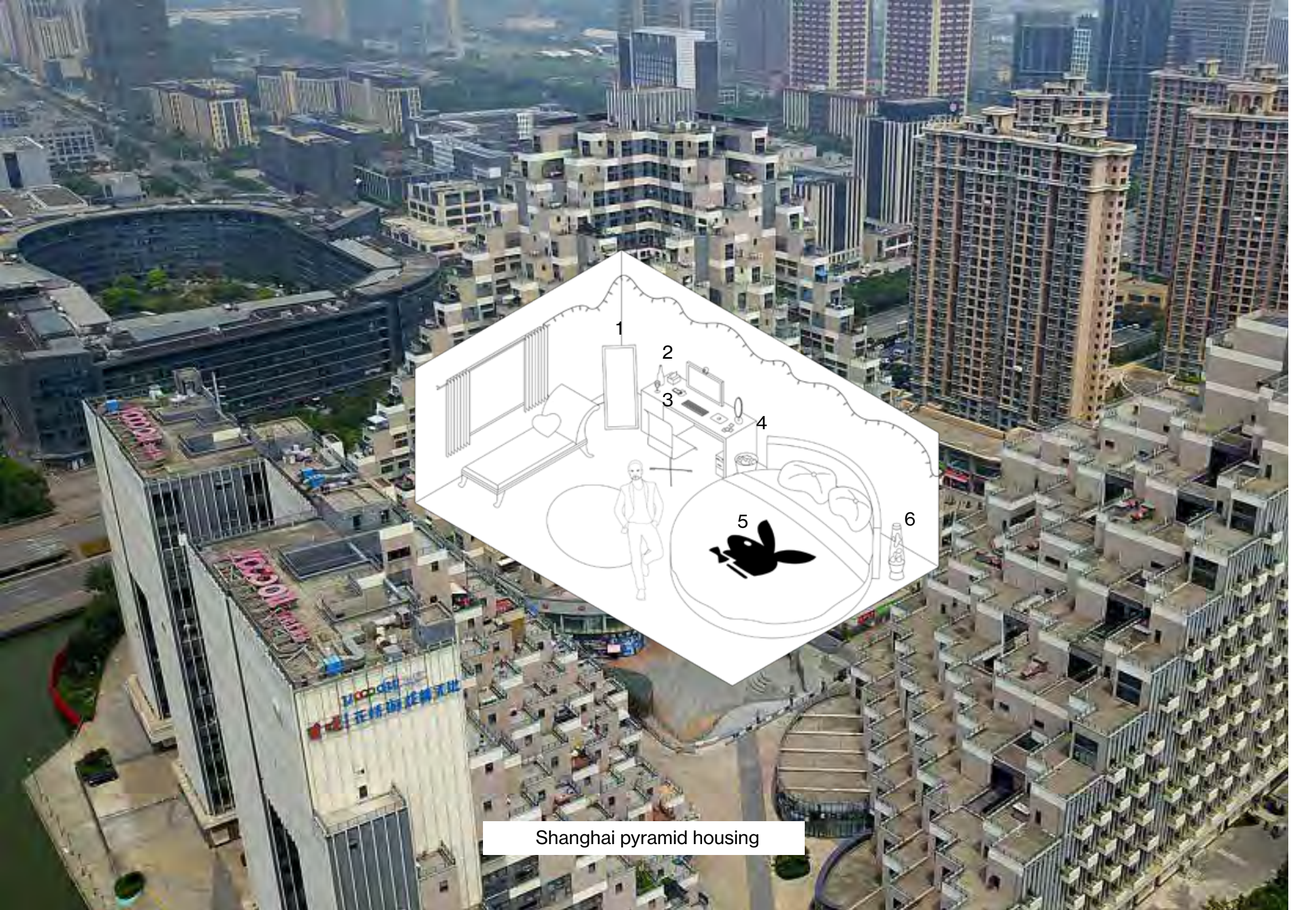
5. You have to be a real moviehead to be able to mimic and know certain actors.



6. Voice acting, mimicing a characters voice in terms of intonation as the deepfake will also put a layer on your vocal chords.

Jennifer Anniston’s Beverly Hills mansion presented by Architectural Digest

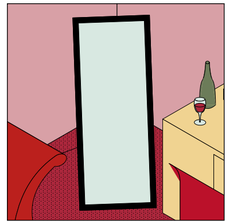
Actor forced to live in his car in LA, due to the housing crisis




Shanghai pyramid housing

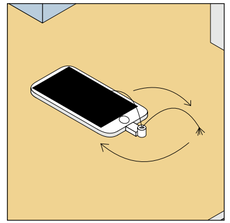
# TINDER COACH

A tinder coach is someone who offers their matchmaking skills online. They give advise on how to build your profile and how to message with your matches.

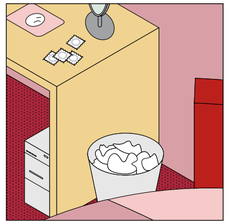


1. Mirrors give away the importance of appearance and a good first impression in dating.

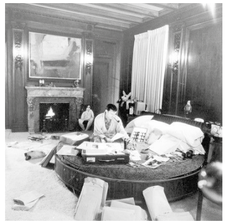
2. Drinking to loosen up. Alcohol abuse is closely related with dating culture.

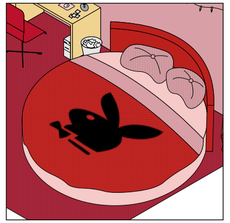


3. Automatic tinder swiper. This tool lets a virtual thumb do the swiping for you to increase your chances of getting a date.

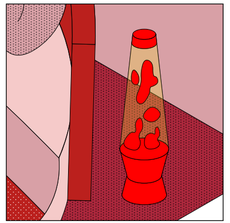


4. Constantly thinking in (sexual) relation-ships isn't healthy, there is a general de-crease in sex around the world.



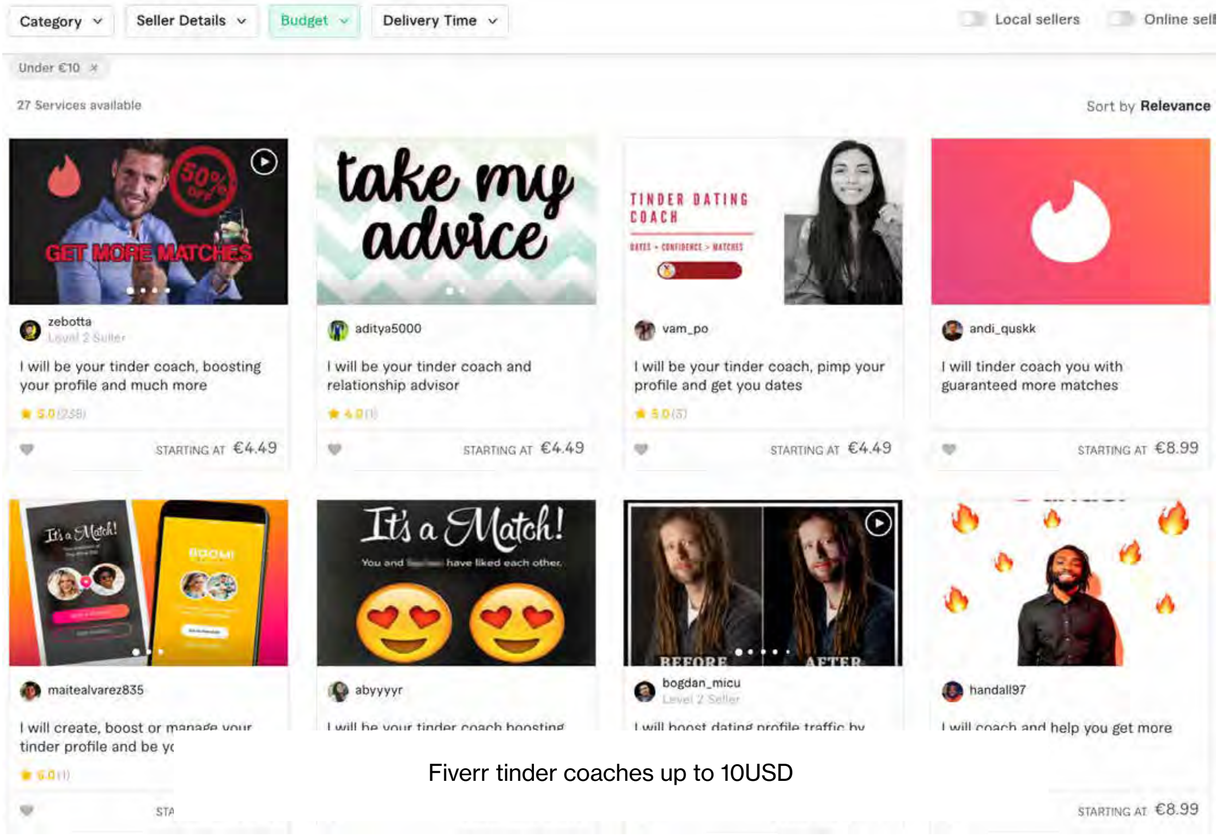


5. Cliché round bed inspired by Hugh Hefner's bed in the playboy mansion. Many theories of these coaches are based on outdated misagonistic ideologies.



6. Red light has different meanings throughout the centuries, being the color of passion, or hiding STD's for costumers during the history of prostitution.

Million Dollar Matchmaker, a dating show matching only wealthy people

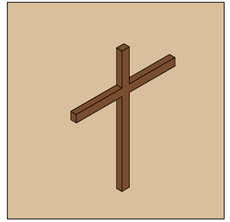



Fiverr tinder coaches up to 10USD

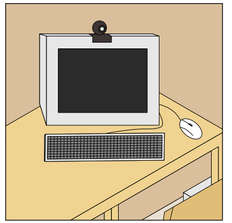
Nigerian social housing

# ONLINE SCAMMER

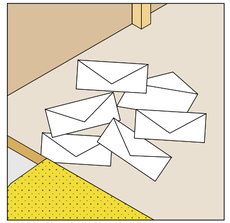
A crime in which the perpetrator develops a scheme using one or more elements of the Internet to deprive a person of property or any interest, estate, or right by a false representation.



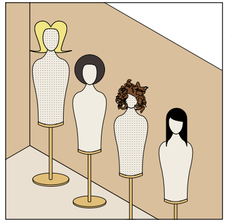
1. Religion in Nigeria, one half Christian the other half Muslim, religous country ethically contradicts with the high prescence of scamming.



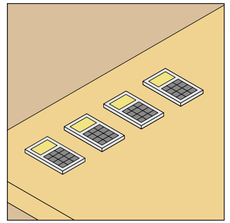
4. Internet scams: fake dating, fake enterprises, phishing e-mails. There are even signs in internet cafés that prohibit to send out these online scams.



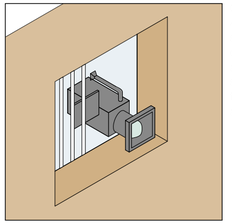
2. Postal scams are one of the oldest scams as mail was exists already for a long time.



5. Con-artists act as being someone else to take out huge loans.



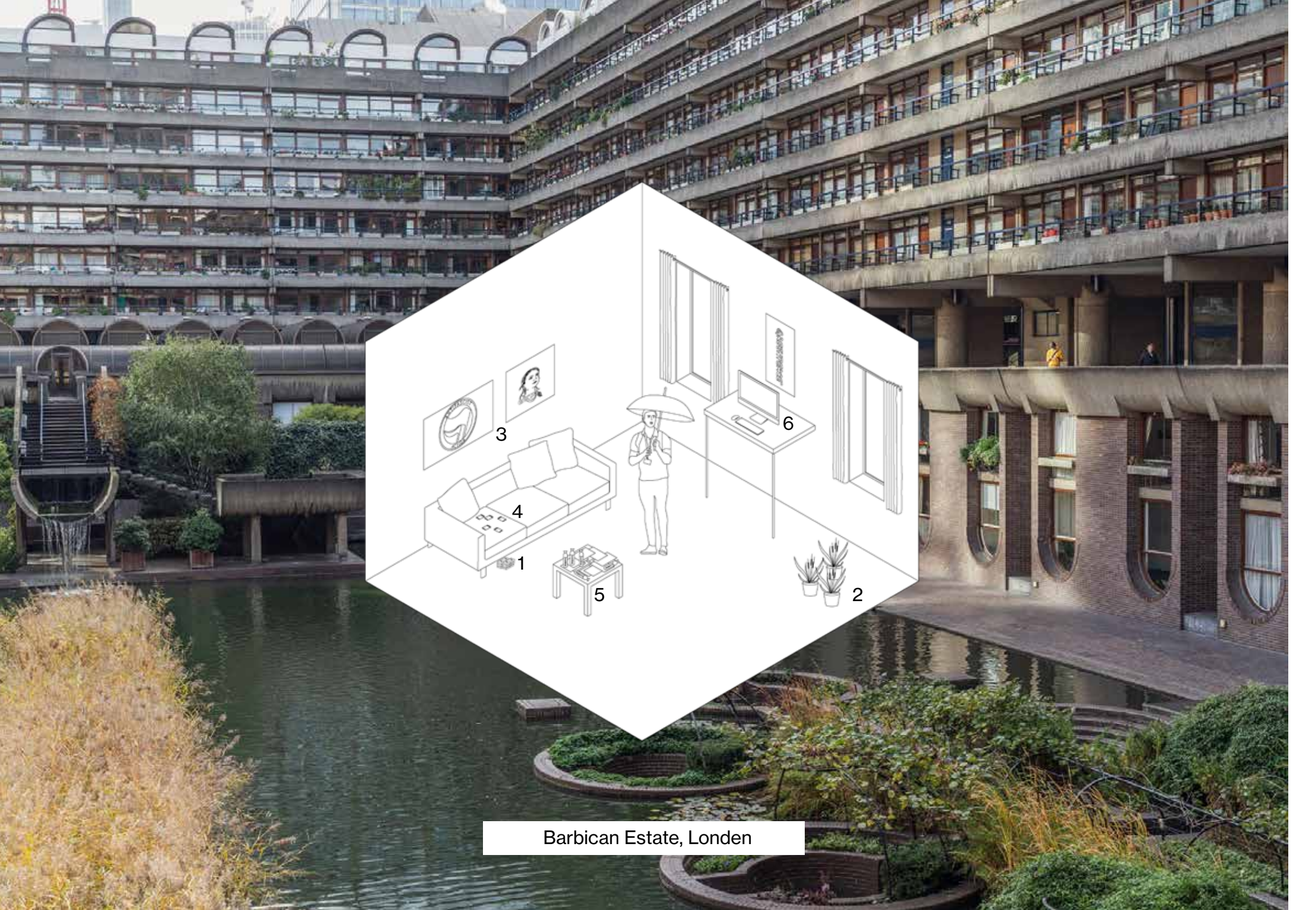
3. Plenty of scammers scam with their cellphones, keeping a lot of contact with many victims at the same time.



6. Kitboga and 419 eater are all scambaiting and creating content around it. They trick scammers in wasting their time by playing along.

Regal Beach Club, George Town, Cayman Islands as off-shore location

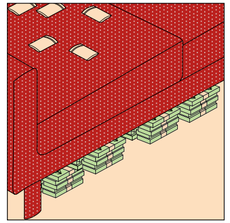
Scammers room in Nigeria



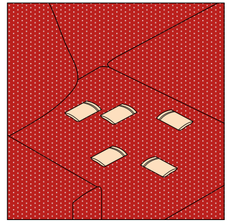

Barbican Estate, Londen

# STREET FUNDRAISER ‘chugger’

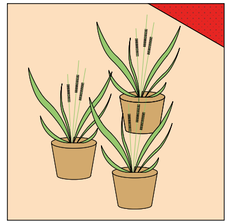
A chugger is a person who approaches passers-by in the street asking for subscriptions or donations to a particular charity.



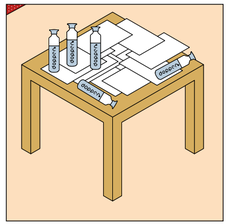
1. Chuggers earn substantial amounts of money per charity subscription they sell. The first year and a half of the subscription goes to the chuggers company and not to the charity.



4. Yogasnorters are alternative people doing yoga, eating vegan, but snorting coke in the weekend, which is very bad for 3rd world communities, the rainforest and the environment.



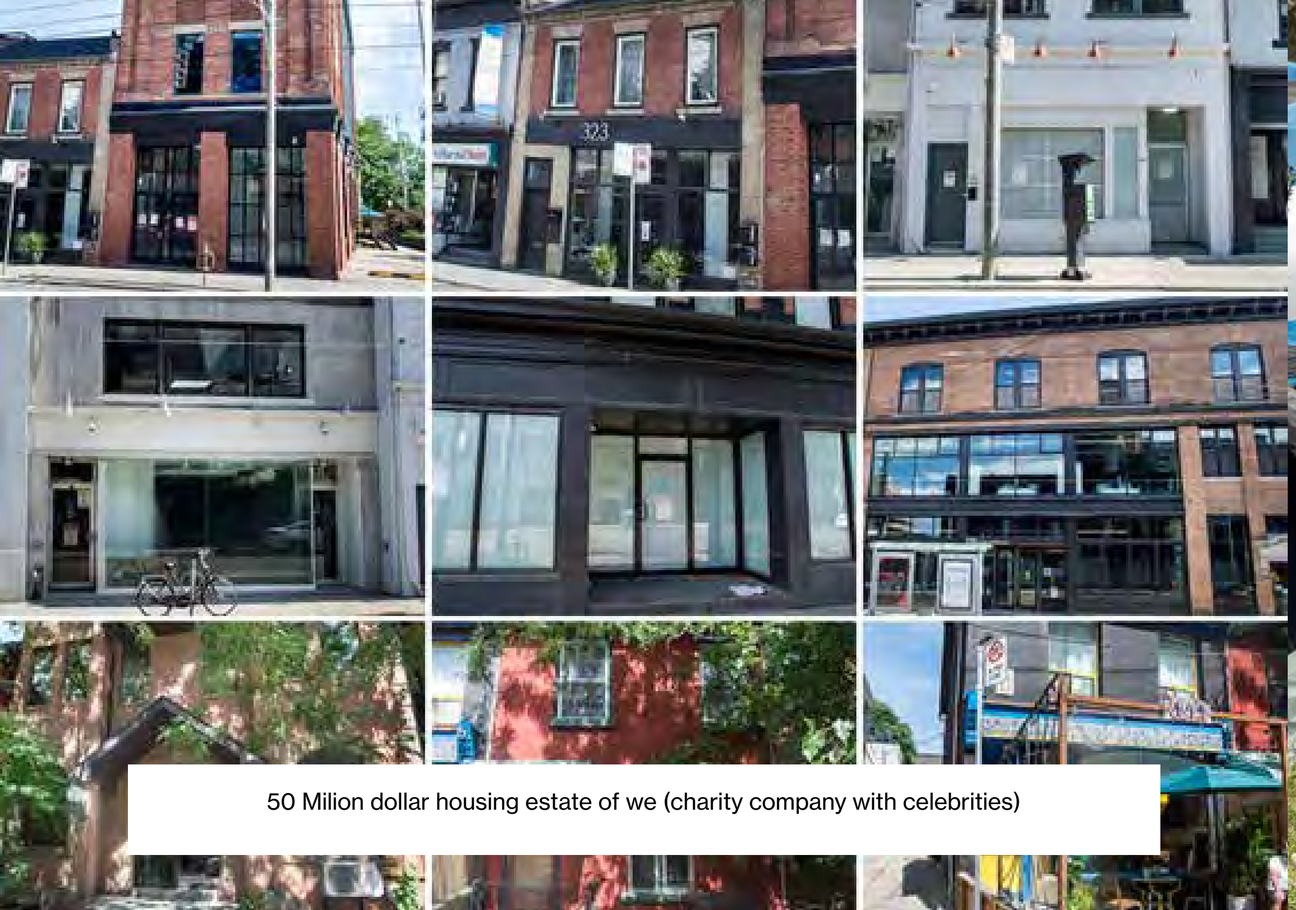
2. Fake plants are on the rise. Even though they look ecologic, plastic is actually very bad for the environment as it is made with oil.




5. Hip dopper dude collecting plenty of bottles and missing the point of reusability.

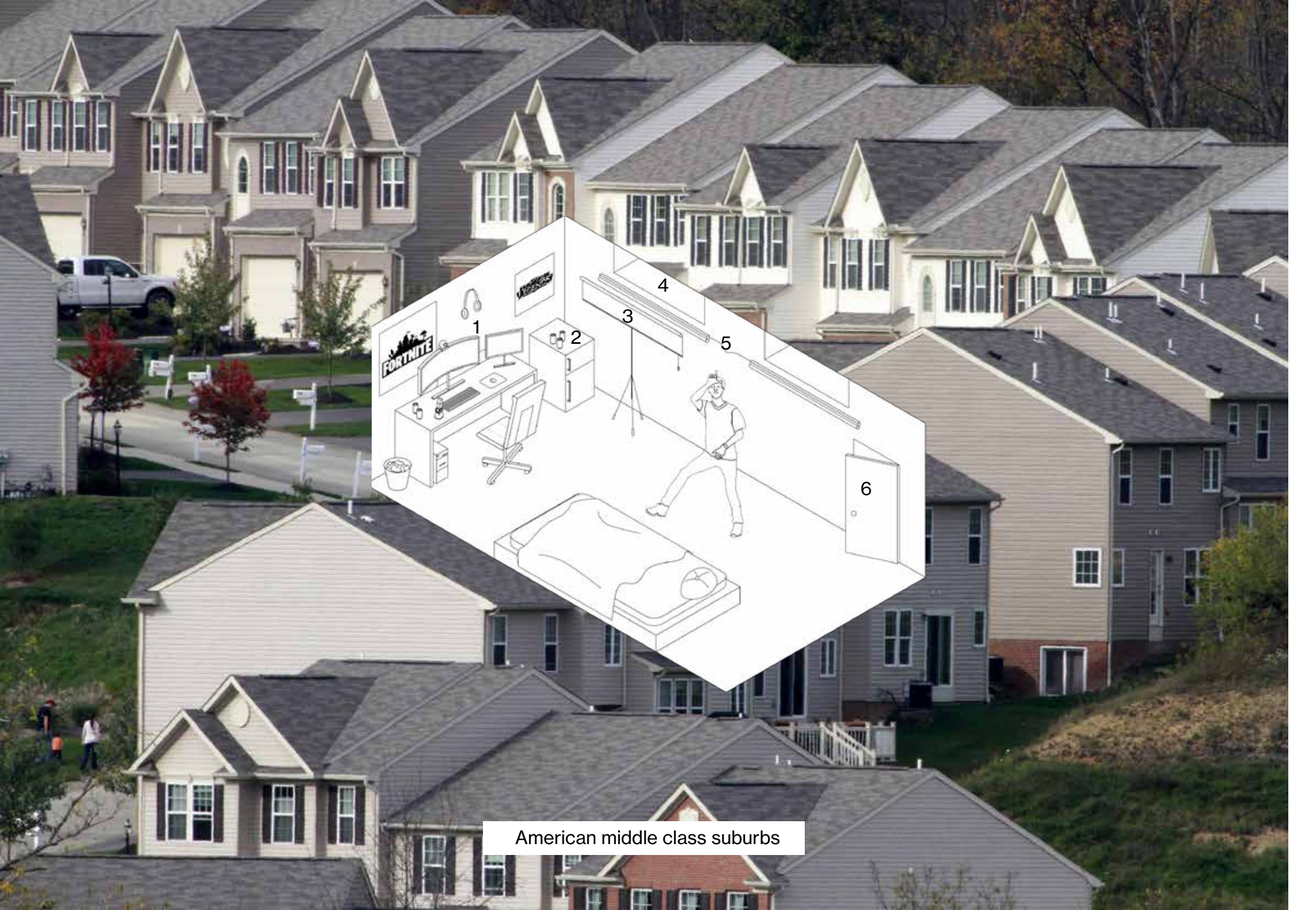
3. Greta Thunberg and the 1975 making song while wearing antifa shirt. Youth culture getting more and more political.

6. During the pandemic the climate strikes moved from the streets to online. Being in favour of the environment becomes a status symbol, not in correspondance to real action.
#climatestrikeonline



50 Milion dollar housing estate of we (charity company with celebrities)

Refugee camp Calais, reality of people that need charity

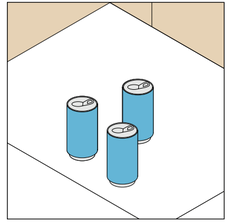



American middle class suburbs

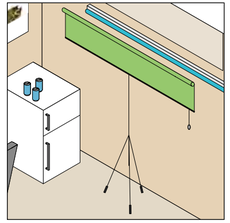
# GAME STREAMER

A game streamer is a person who broadcasts themself online through a live stream or pre-recorded video while playing a certain videogame. Their income is based on subscriptions, donations and sponsorships.

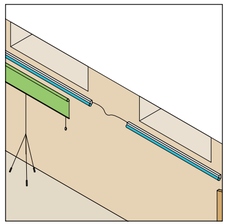
1. Game setup, reinvesting in a better setup to achieve the perfect specs and ultimate gaming experience.



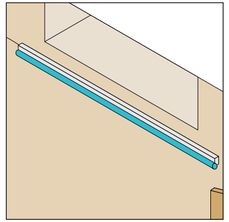
2. Energy drinks and eating in stream, very unhealthy habit that also influences children who watch their favourite streamer.



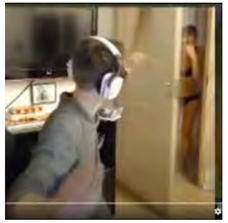
3. Virtual background for an interactive backdrop while streaming.

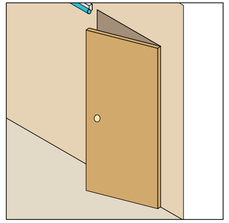


4. Living in the basement, the use of the word basement gamer and the stigma around it was portrayed well in South Park.



5. Strange admiration of blue LED light, originates from one of the earliest game consoles: Atari.

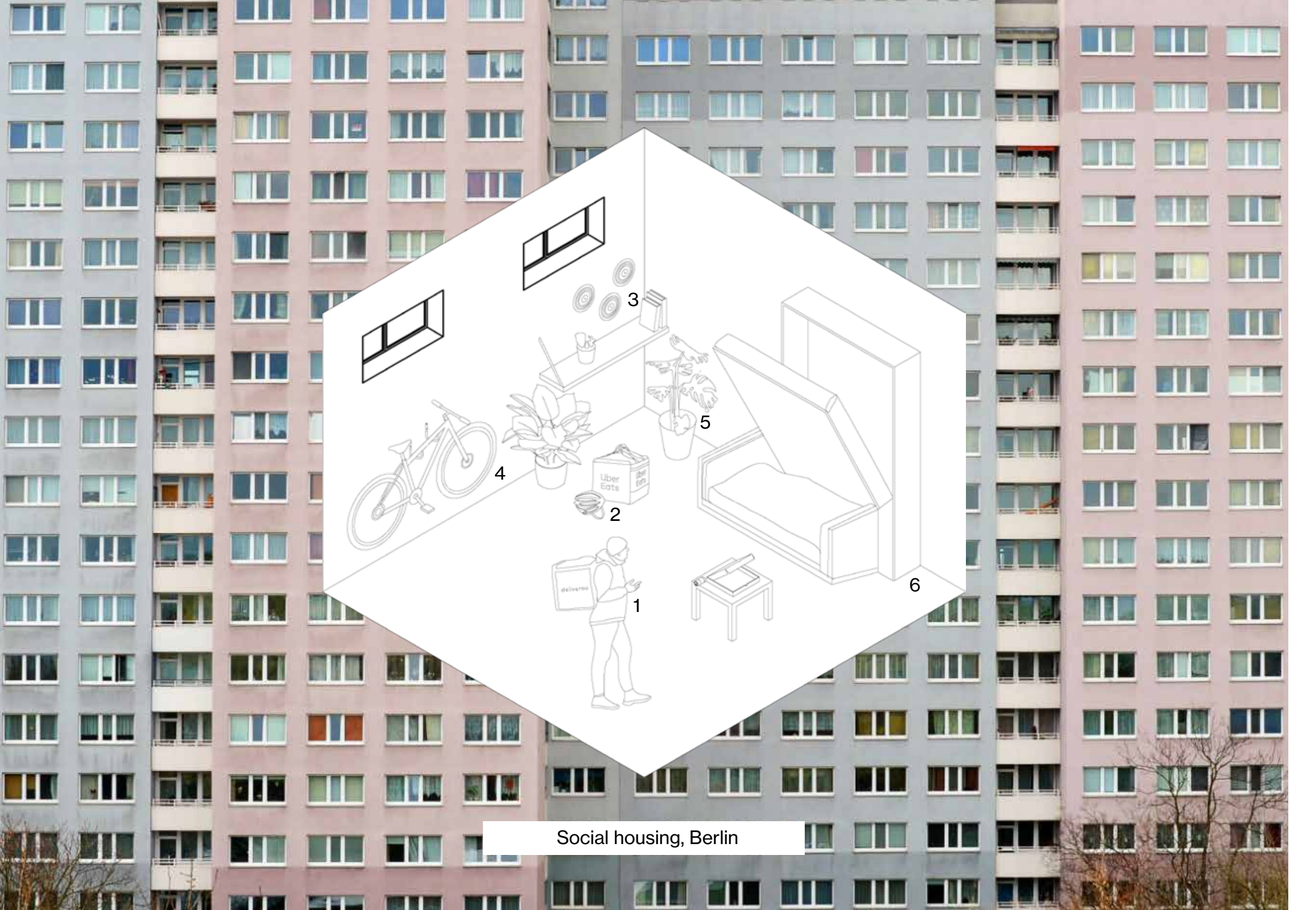




6. Doorway, often right in the camera view. This way watchers have a look inside the private life.

Faze Clan’s 30million dollar mansion

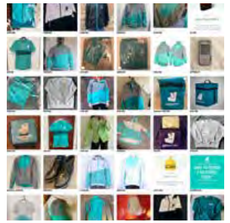
Low budget battlestation

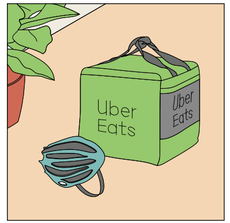



Social housing, Berlin

# FOOD DELIVERER

Retail food delivery is a courier service in which a restaurant, store, or independent food-delivery company delivers food to a customer.

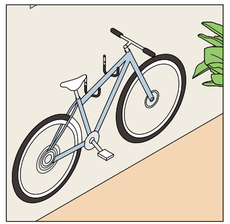





1. Deliveroo vest became a hype under “hipebeast” culture during the workwear trend. Where clothes from DHL, Ikea, CAT and many other brand were sold for high prices.

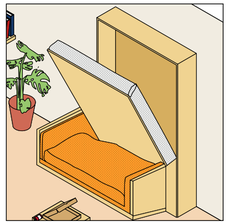
2. Riders not heroes is a film about Milan, the food delivery capital, during lockdown. Deliveroo works mostly with tempworkers delivering the food on bike, many of the workers being immigrants.

3. Record on wall, music for image building, not for listening to on a record player but listening while riding.



4. Bike on the wall, drivers often have very expensive bikes that they buy themselves, wich leaves them with to little revenue.

5. Room with plants, plants associated with luxury and well-being.

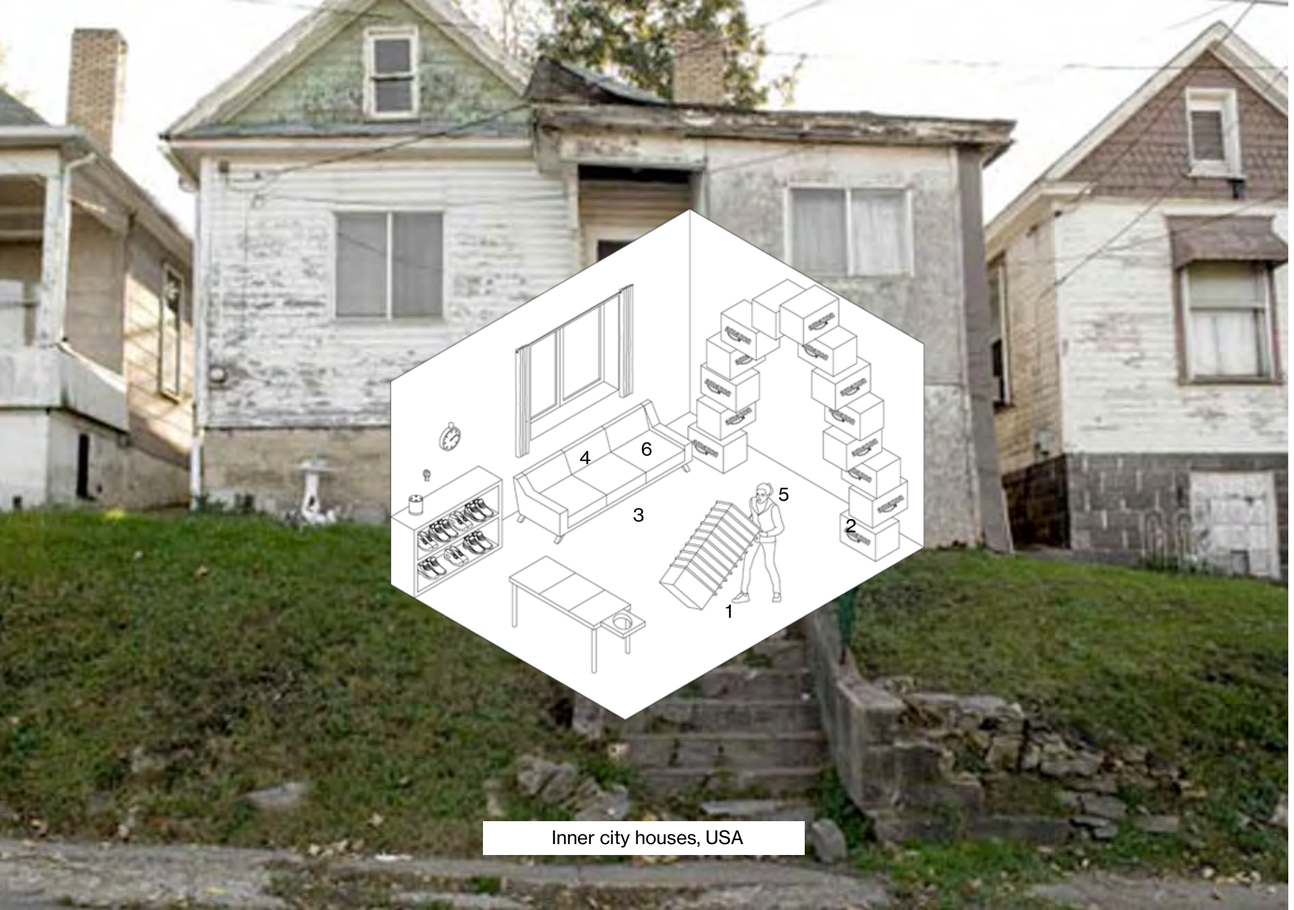


6. Tiny house hype, versus poor people actually having to live in non designed tiny spaces.

Deliveroo food market at Alice Mediapolis - Automated food market

for PBXProject "Runner" */ = {

Riders not Heroes, 2050+, Milan



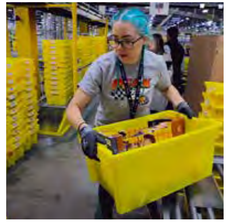

Inner city houses, USA

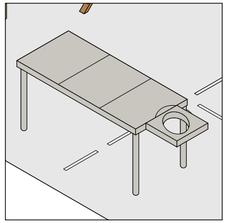
# AMAZON WORKER

A person that works for the multinational Amazon. An online retail company, based in the USA. They work in the warehouses to optimise the shipping process of packages. Amazon gets lots of critique on the working conditions and health care of their workers.

1. Training shoes, lots of standing, very big warehouses, lots of distances to get to their workspace.

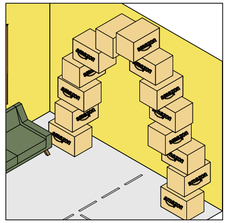
2. Stopwatch, working against the clock, 11 seconds per package.



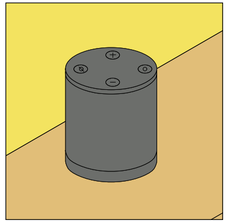


3. Massage chair for relieving pains in the back caused by heavy lifting.

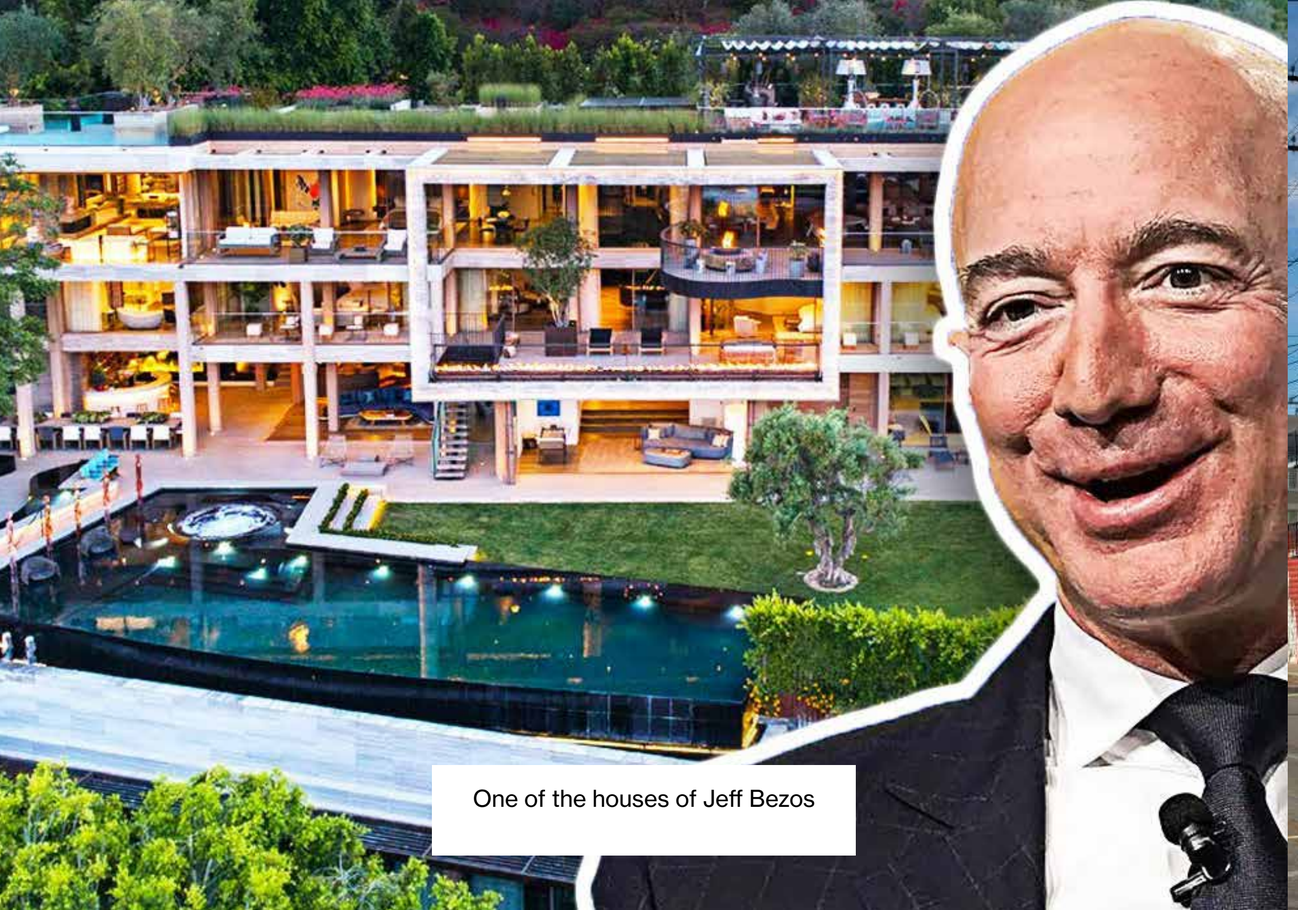
4. Price for most efficient worker pushes to work faster and more efficient, with quota and people getting fired if they are to slow.



5. Amazon box tower, “work hard, have fun, make history” quote.

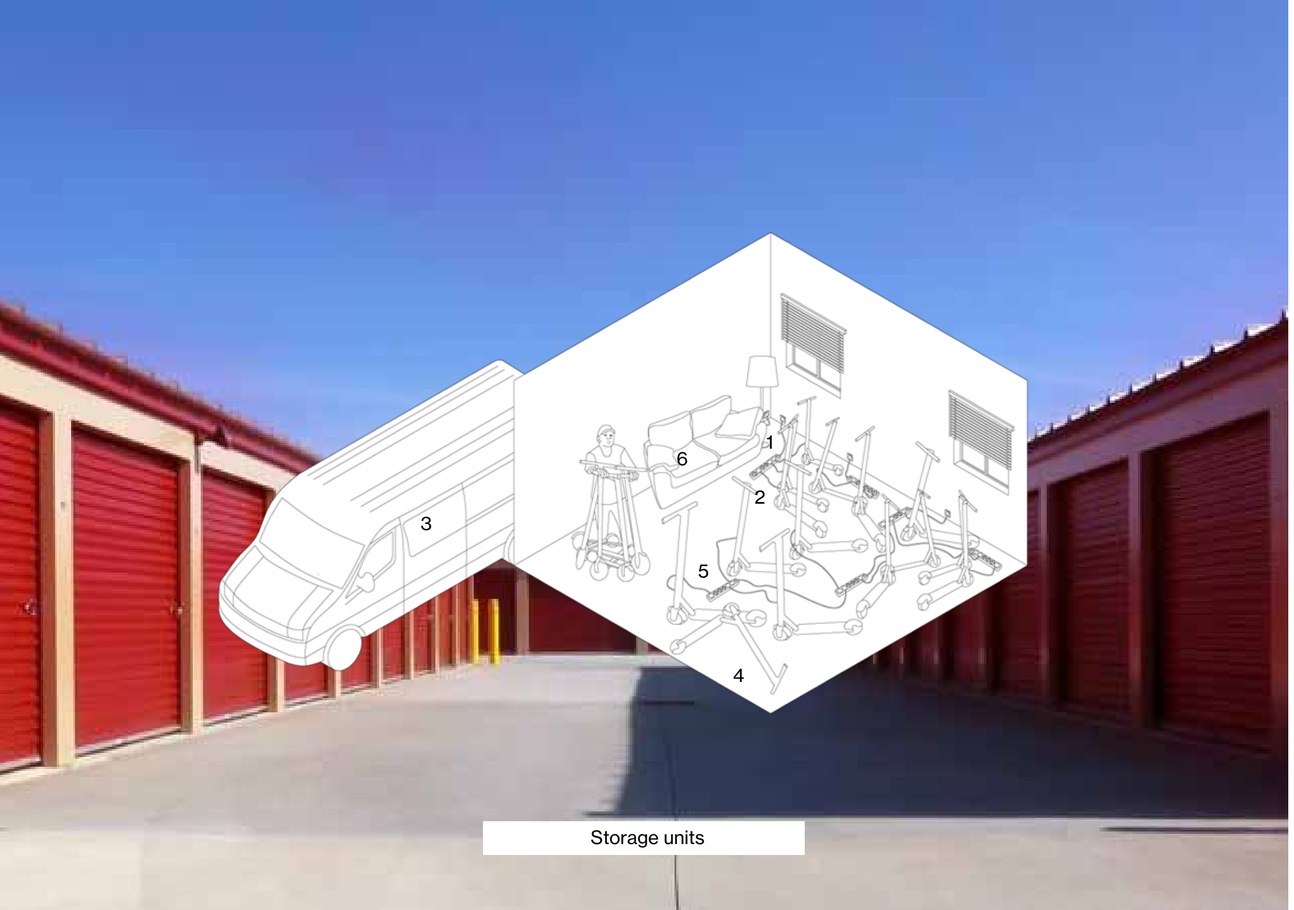


6. Amazon’s Alexa has created quite a lot of conspiracy when unnecessary microphones were discovered.



One of the houses of Jeff Bezos

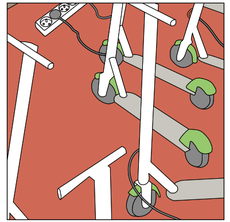
Tempworkers' houses inner city USA, Tucson, AZ




Storage units

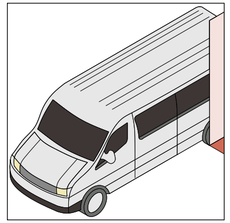
# LIME JUICER

As electric shared scooters become more present in todays urban landscapes, the people fueling this economy also gain importance. Lime (a scooter charing company) juicer and bird flyers, pick up scooters in the evening and charge them at home.

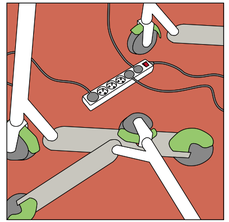


1. Scooter charge station in the office spaces are becoming a new part of the working environment.

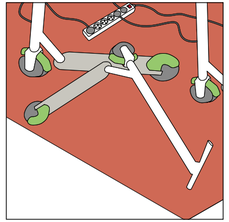
2. E-scooters create chaos in the streets of many urban areas creating lots of controversy, in some cities they even got banned.



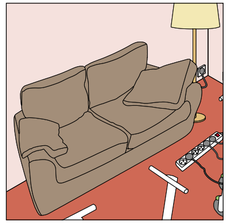
3. E-scooter charging with personal vehicles, the revenue of the job is small with lots of extra costs.



4. The waste piles of electric vehicles in China are enormous.



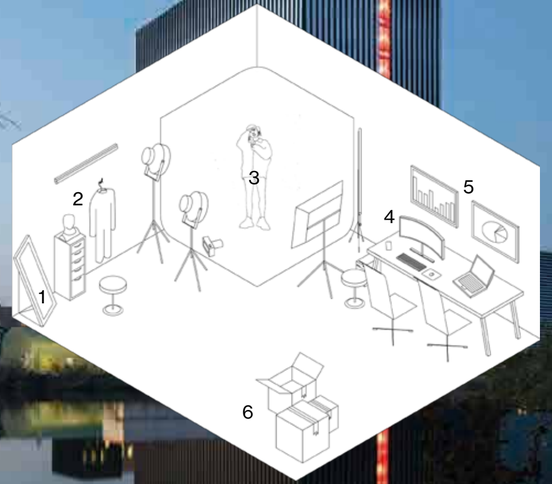
5. The scooters invade the spaces of their private lives.



6. The interior of electric scooter chargers are disregarded.

Monchenette, luxary electic scooter, monaco

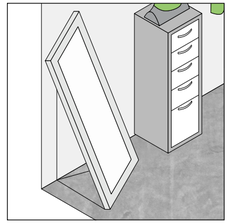
Temp workers houses LA




Data research center

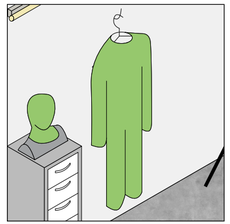
# AI INFLUENCER

With the incline of digital modification software, faces online become more distant from reality. In the last few years AI or artificial intelligence influencers have gained attraction online. These personas are completely created virtually.

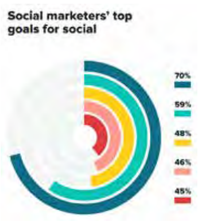


1. Mirror selfies, reoccuring pose used by many influencers with a lot of hidden messages in the background.

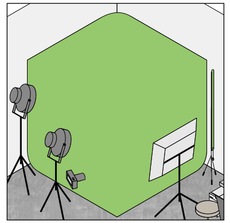
4. Creating of a CGI model. Shudu, a black AI model created by a company led by white workers.



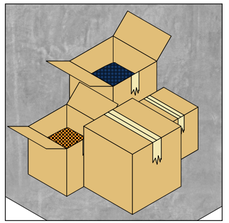
2. Suit for CGI, to alter appearance completely alter their movements to characters.



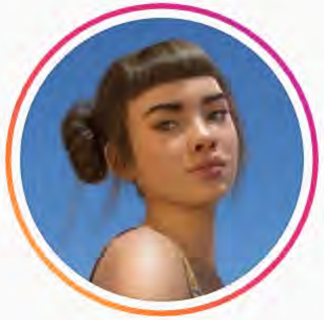
5. Social media marketing research, so that people exactly know what to create digitally which will attract the most reactions.



3. Green screen to alter surroundings as well.



6. Sponsored deals with sponsors sending their products to the influencer to portray themselves with.



lilmiquela Follow

**912** posts **2.8m** followers **1,896** following

**Miquela**
#BlackLivesMatter
Change-seeking robot with the drip 💧💖
⬇️ JOIN MY DISCORD ✨
**miquelamusic.me/LIVECHAT**

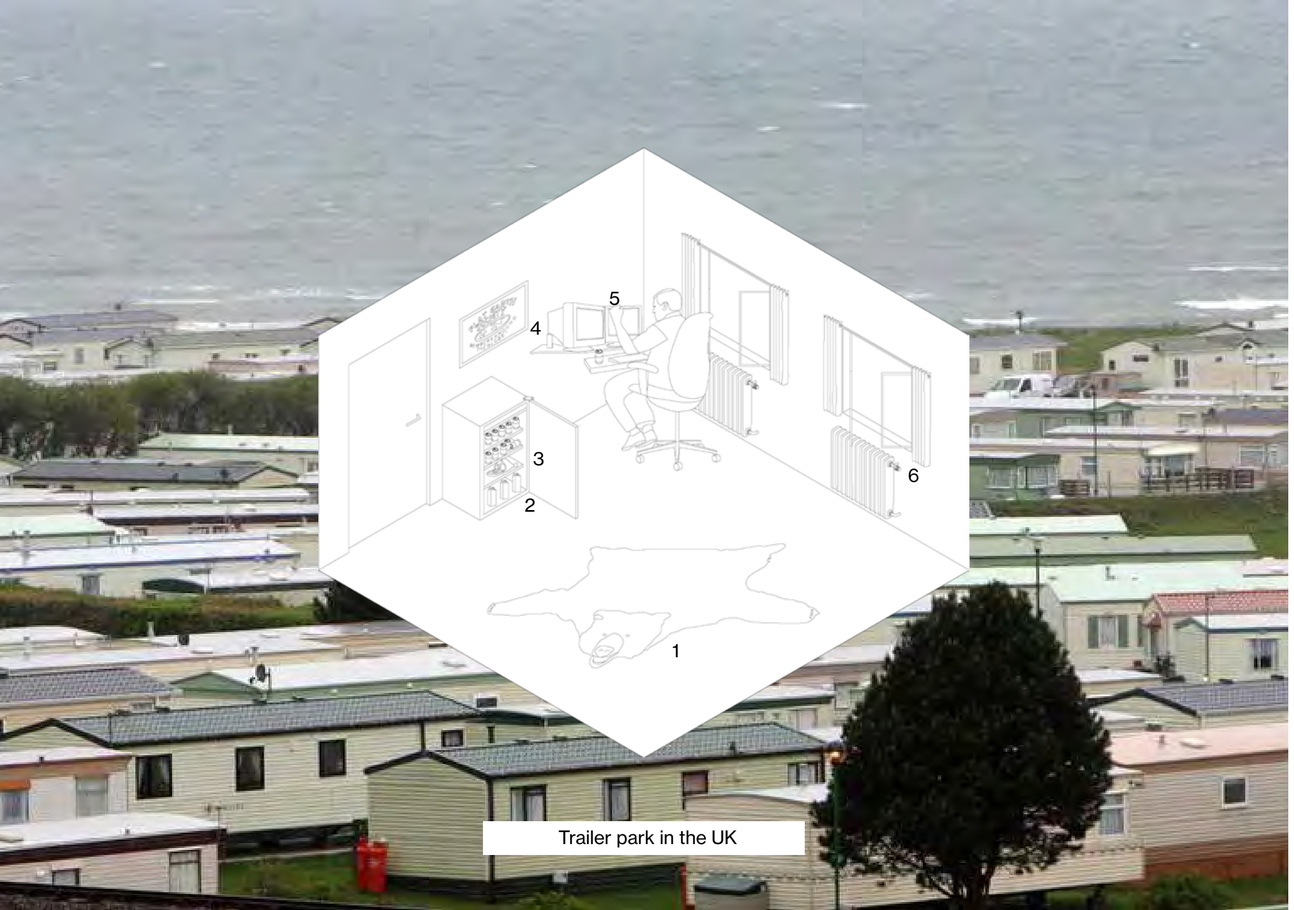
lilmiquela, the most popular AI influencer

noahgreal Follow

**6** posts **412** followers **890** following

Robot // 18 // CA
⤴Follow my profile if you like✋🤗

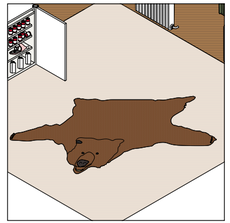
noahgreal, a less popular AI influencer



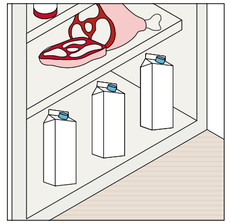

Trailer park in the UK

# CONSPIRACY THEORIST

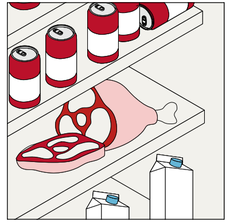
For example climate change denial, to doubt that contradicts the scientific consensus on climate change. Online people denying climate change are omnipresent. Their naratives impact politics, news reporting and the support that the ecological transition has.



1. The bear hunt has a very bad impact on ecosystems.
It only creates status symbols.



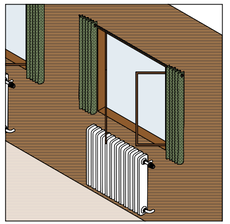
2. The enviromental and ethical impact of the dairy industry is immense. In the “Fair” Oaks Farms, young calfs are malnourished and abused.



3. The meat industry had an immense carbon foodprint and animal abuse.

4. Poster flat earth society. They believe that the earth is flat and people claiming otherwise are a scam. (note: members ‘around’ the world)

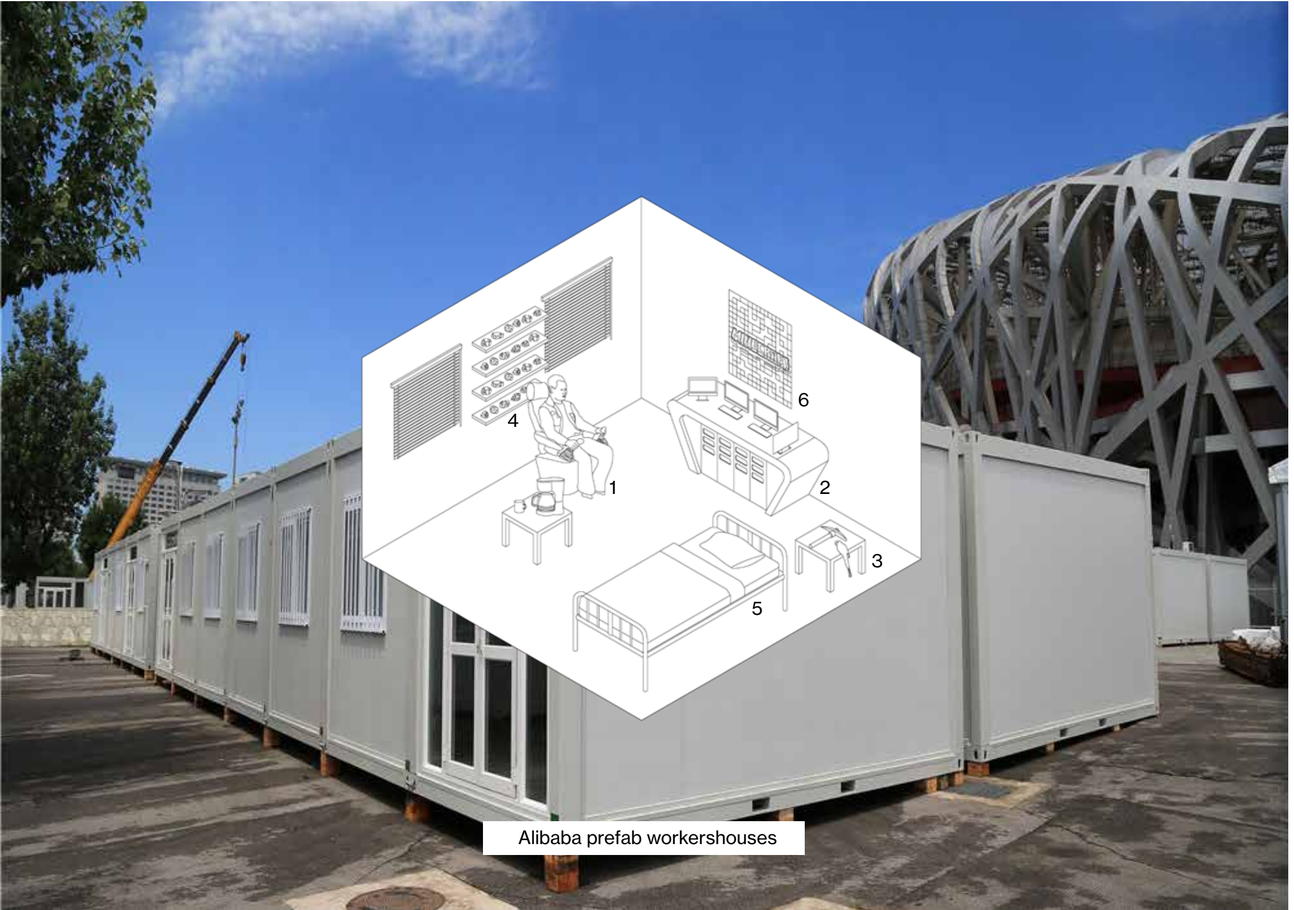
5. Steve Milloy disputed the scientific consensus on climate change and the health risks of second-hand smoking, he is an exemplary liar-for-hire.



6. A open window during the winter with the heating on maximum.

Donald Trump “fake news” narative, living in luxury context

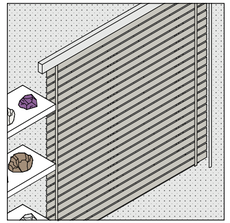
Vivos x Point – Bunkers in South Dakota



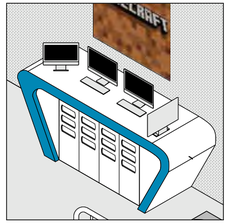

Alibaba prefab workershouses

# VIRTUAL MINER

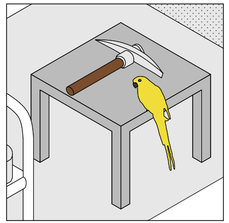
China-based mining company has applied 5G technology in the Sandaozhuang mine to help its miners use excavators remotely.



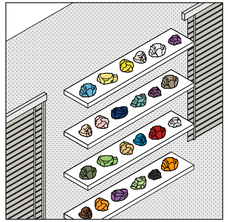
1. The virtual miner has a special seat and handle to do his work at home.



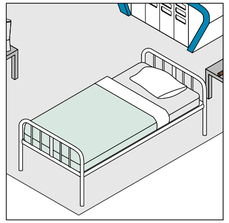
2. The miner has a impressive setup to see all the actions on the mine.



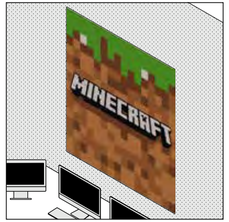
3. In the past, canary were used in mines to alert miners of gasleaks.



4. Mining companies are excevating resources all over the world.



5. Miner bed in the industrial revolution. Miners are necessary workers but often very abandoned. In Belgium we see that when mines close there is often not many solutions for the old mineworkers.




6. Working becomes like playing minecraft. The idea of working on the computer makes it more fun.

# Trending

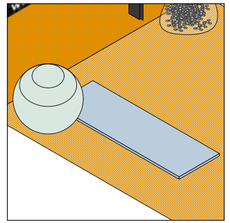
Chen Jinghe, chairman of Zijin Mining

Dadun Village workershouses in Lingshui, China

Coworking space Dojo Bali

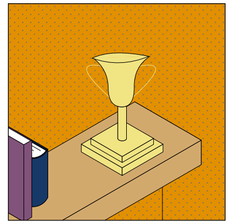
# DROPSHIPPER

Dropshipping is a retail fulfillment method where a store doesn't keep the products it sells in stock. Instead, when a store sells a product using the dropshipping model, it purchases the item from a third party and has it shipped directly to the customer.

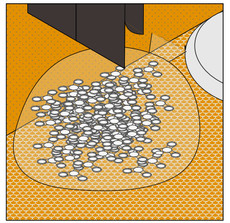


1. Ethical risks are involved, as products are often produced in low quality working environments.

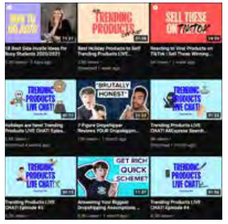
2. With the enormous category on dropshipping books, it makes it easy for anyone to start. Most of the titels are the same and the content will not differ that much.

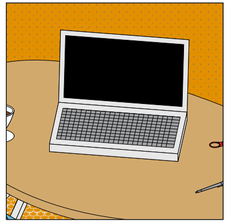


3. Boasting of dropshippers, making shows of their succes story trying to get everyone aboard.

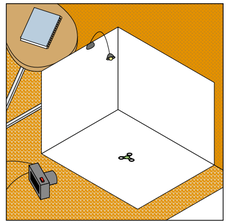


4. Missed hypes create a lot of waste when the costumers have lost their interest.



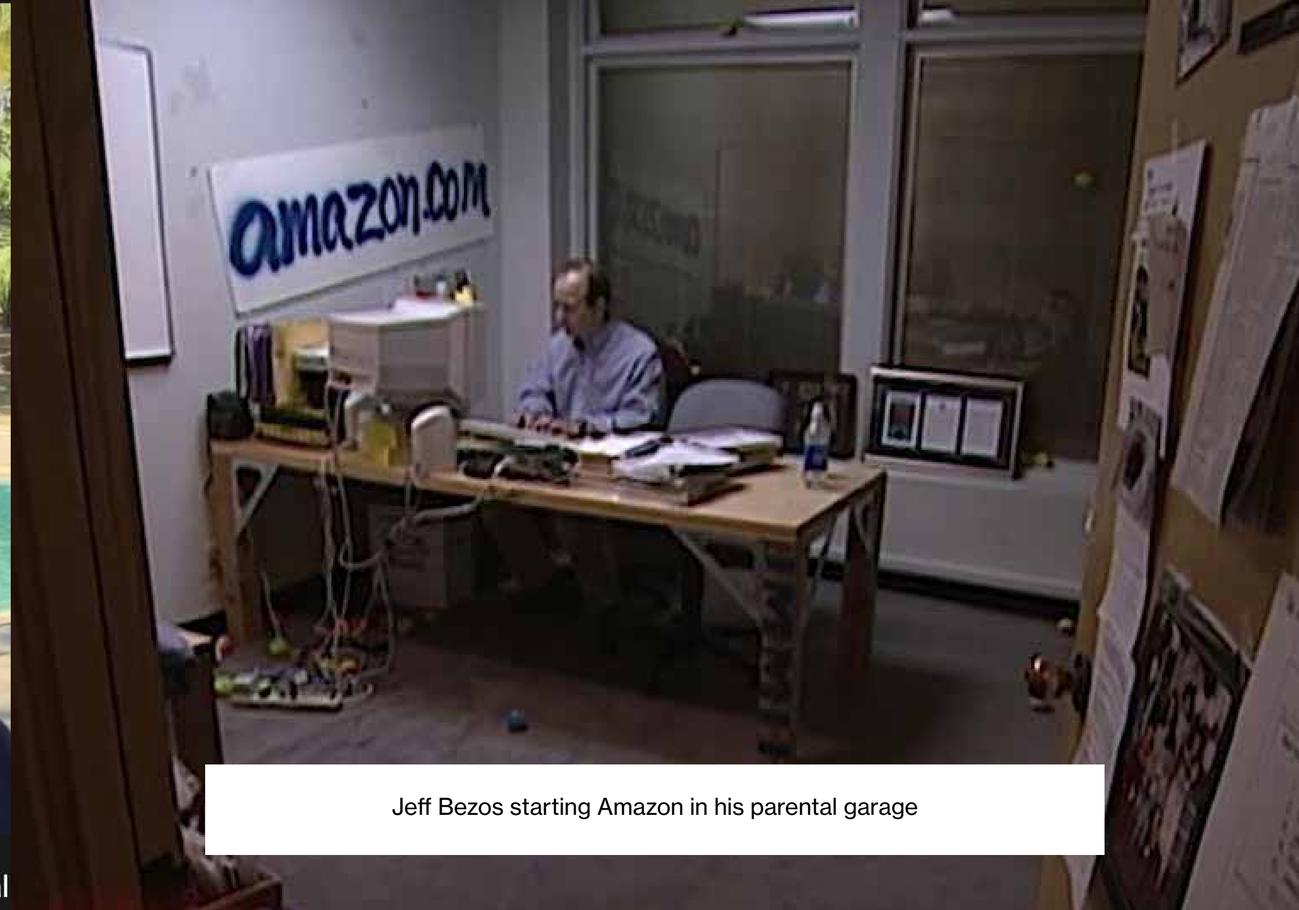
5. Laptop for Youtube videos for extra tips and tricks that would make the difference. As a dropshipper, your laptop serves as your main workstation.



6. Small photo studio for products to capture professional images for their online store.

Dropshippers mass moving to Thailand

How To Run Your Drop Shipping Store From Thailand - Drop shipping Tips & Tricks - Dropship Social




Jeff Bezos starting Amazon in his parental garage

## CONCLUSION

The jobs created through the technosphere rely on digital platforms, automation and online connections. They are often disconnected from society and practiced in secluded, dark environments. Plenty of these jobs are focused on image creation and increasing revenue. This duality questions the reality of the workforce. They might have a glamorous appeal through the image of the multinational tech-companies and the individualistic methods. In reality only few can take advantage of the luxurious lifestyles, while others are left in a precarious position. They live in overpopulated, poluted, insecure environments and don't have access to good healthcare and job security. This is the price they pay for the flexibility of their contracts. It disconnects them from society and the benefits of a open-ended contract. They can be artists through the day and be delivering pizza's at night. In reality many of these jobs are excecuted by unschooled people that use it as their only revenue, without providing enough means to have decent living conditions.

These jobs are focused on online presence, but disregard their realities. Dropshippers, tinder coaches, AI-influencers and lime juicers convince people online to take part in these "easy money jobs" through youtube videos and instagram posts. The reality is concealed, a anthropogenic neo-liberal scam, with simularities to a pyramid scheme. These flexjobs increase te wage gap. Rich people get richer, while others meddle their way through precarious working conditions, because of the lack of a better alternative. They pay the price of the new found luxuries of society. One day these workers of the technosphere will become automized as well and new luxurious and precarious jobs will arise.