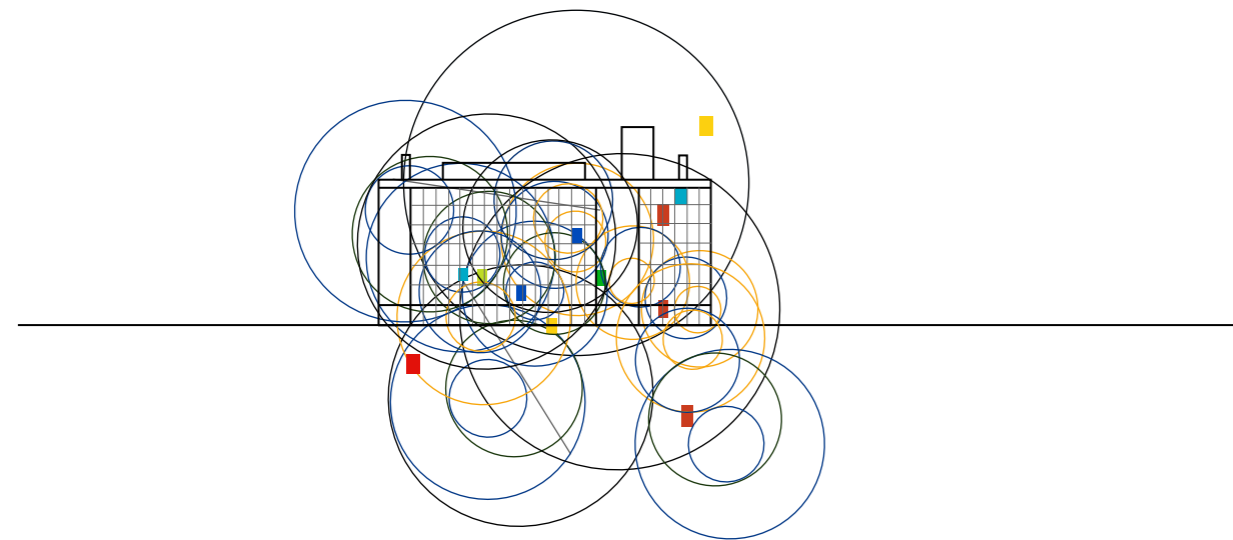


The Modular applied at the Unité D'Habitation was mathematically calculated to meet the minimal living requirements of the average family in the modern industrial age. The Unité is an efficient structure that slots into the matrix of the formal economy, as a neutral cipher for the flow and supply chains of consumer culture.

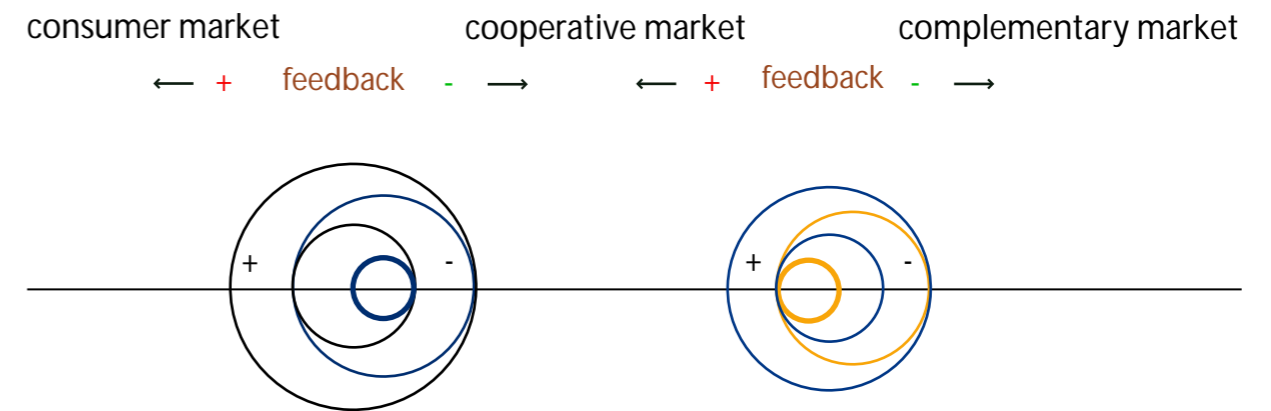
This is arguably an inverse of Braudel's non-capitalism with its high density of inter-trading of goods and services within a contained space based on the basic living needs of each consumer. Such density would act as a 'capacitor' reducing the current of consumer flow linked to hidden ecological costs (to use an electrical circuit analogy).

The 'minimal' high density habitat so ironically has a huge ecological footprint: a thousand people with a combined biomass of 14 tons carbon annually produces some 6000 tons of CO2. Given its unsustainability and an increasing ecological awareness, a range of cultural responses in the form of DIY and environmental initiatives emerge. These overlap, connect in a complex range of ways but without reducing the dependency on the main causes of ecological imbalance.

In this situation what is needed is not more modular tools but what we can describe as 'autopoietic' tools. The autopoietic is used to define cognitive tools with a different visualisation of the environment from modernist tools: autopoietic tools are adaptive: self-recreating generational tools that construct the boundaries of their environmental ecology. To do so they operate in an evolutionary and recursive way. In contrast modernist tools like the Modular are, by analogy, viral; they are designed to replicate and grow exponentially.



To apply the autopoietic to the space of the dominant consumer paradigm, the economic environment may be broken down into distinct zones which can produce feedback exchanges within it. In the current cultural context, in practical terms, we can identify 2 separate emergent entities that can do this: the complementary market and the cooperative or mutualised consumer markets. Thus for inhabitants in a high density habitat, 3 possibilities in terms of market participation can co-exist and interact with each other within the same environment:



By inverting the Corbusian modular, a series of feedback exchanges between different scales of participation by inhabitants in the differentiated markets penetrate back into each other (shown along a one dimensional plane).

The size of the circles represent the size of market involvement of any participant. Participation in one market penetrates into the share of the other in a reverse direction. This generates a reciprocal feedback over time in a dynamic series based on exchange, increasing and reducing the size of corresponding market environments. The inter-penetrating process reproduces the high density habitat as economic process, based on differentiated market currencies as tools. The interactions between the zones are subject to the normative laws of economic exchange: supply and demand, liquidity in terms of time, probability and value, market depth and marginal value and, the legal parameters applying to any transaction.

This implies not the creation of separated complementary economic systems - such as Time Banks, LETs as it is difficult to measure how they make inroads into the dependence on existing consumer markets and so only reinforces the dominant consumer paradigm as the sole dependable form of exchange.

The autopoietic does imply new forms of social tools that enable a picture of economic process as ecologic process to emerge; a different picturing of the supply chains and entry points into the space of the Unité as economic process.