11
LOVE
PLANET
EARTH ™

CITIES

In the 19th century, there were no satellites to document the depth of a night on Earth. Back then, only three per cent of the population lived in cities. Today, we have a nocturnal planisphere of lights revealing unrestrained development. The satellite images foretell demographic relationships and transformations of the land and reveal signs of change. Human traces can be seen from above. According to the United Nations, more than fifty per cent of the world's population lives in or is migrating to cities. Within a quarter of a century, two out of three people will live in urban areas. The Megalopolises, which have populations of ten million people or more, are crammed with human beings. But in some other parts of the world Cities are rethinking development. New experiments are beginning, from Masdar City, near Abu Dhabi, to PlanIT Valley in Portugal. Centres that, like organisms, will be able to manage and regulate the urban metabolism of their inhabitants: water, energy, waste. As Aristotle said: "A great city is not to be confounded with a populous one". The age of the Ecopolis is coming.

Shanghai, Shanghai World Expo 2010, China

The relentless dynamism of urban growth gives rise to an ongoing metamorphosis of the city.

01_JAN

s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

02_FEB

t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3

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Barisal, Bangladesh

Water, a vital resource for the development of the city, can sometimes become a threat.

03_MAR

t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

04_APR

f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1

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Arwad Island, Syria

Demographic pressure is increasingly limiting the urban space available.

05_MAY

s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

06_JUN

w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1

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Night view of Planet Earth

Cities are the places where demand for energy is most concentrated. Cities absorb 75% of global energy output.

07_JUL

f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

08_AUG

m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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Sinop, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Urban sprawl is causing irreversible changes to the landscape.

09_SEP

t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1

10_OCT

s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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Detroit, Michigan, USA

The reconversion of disused urban areas can generate more sustainable development plans.

11_NOV

t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1

12_DEC

t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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Shanghai, Shanghai World Expo 2010, China
31° 11′ 10″ N, 121° 29′ 20″ E
http://www.telespazio.com/calendar11/shanghai.html
GeoEye-1 © GeoEye Inc., 2010

Barisal, Bangladesh
22° 43′ 30″ N, 90° 24′ 30″ E
http://www.telespazio.com/calendar11/barisal.html
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Arwad Island, Syria
34° 51′ 20″ N, 35° 51′ 30″ E
http://www.telespazio.com/calendar11/arwad_island.html
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Night view of Planet Earth
http://www.telespazio.com/calendar11/night_view.html
Credit: C. Mayhew & R. Simmon (NASA/GSFC), NOAA/ NGDC,
DMSP Digital Archive

Sinop, Mato Grosso, Brazil
11° 51′ 15″ S, 55° 30′ 40″ W
http://www.telespazio.com/calendar11/sinop.html
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Detroit, Michigan, USA
42° 33′ 30″ N, 83° 02′ 50″ W
http://www.telespazio.com/calendar11/detroit.html
IKONOS © GeoEye Inc., 2005

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50
1961
2011