

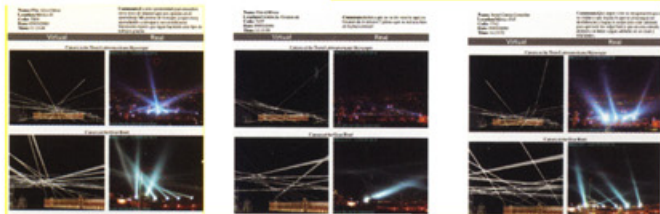
"Vectorial Elevation" is a large-scale interactive installation originally designed to transform Mexico City's historic center using robotic searchlights controlled over the Internet. Visitors to the project web site at www.alzado.net could design ephemeral light sculptures over the National Palace, City Hall, the Cathedral, and the Templo Mayor Aztec ruins. The sculptures, made by 18 xenon searchlights located around the Zócalo Square, could be seen from a 10-mile radius and were sequentially rendered as they arrived over the Net. The web site featured a 3D-Java interface that allowed participants to make a vectorial design over the city and virtually see it from any point of view. When the project server in Mexico received a submission, it was numbered and entered into a queue. Every six to eight seconds the searchlights would automatically orient themselves and three webcams would take pictures to document a participant's design. A notification email message was then sent once the archive web page was done. To facilitate access, free terminals were set up in public libraries and museums throughout the country. The Mexican version of "Vectorial Elevation" was operative every night from dawn to dusk between December 26, 1999 and January 7, 2000. During that time, the web site received 800,000 visits from 89 countries and all the regions of Mexico.

In 2002 the installation was staged again, for the inauguration of the Basque Museum of Contemporary Art, ARTIUM, in the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. Between April 22 and May 5, 2002, the piece received 300,000 visitors from 63 countries, who downloaded more than 3.5 million files. The Spanish version differed from the original in many aspects, the most important being the placement of a large screen in the Artium Square, which showed the names of the participants and their dedications while each design was rendered in the sky. The project will be installed again in the future in different cities. In the meantime, the web site is still operative: the design section allows participation triggering a search for the closest matches in the archive and the video section shows pre-recorded streams.

The exhibition in Pittsburgh features video, internet and printed documentation of the Mexican and Spanish versions of "Vectorial Elevation."

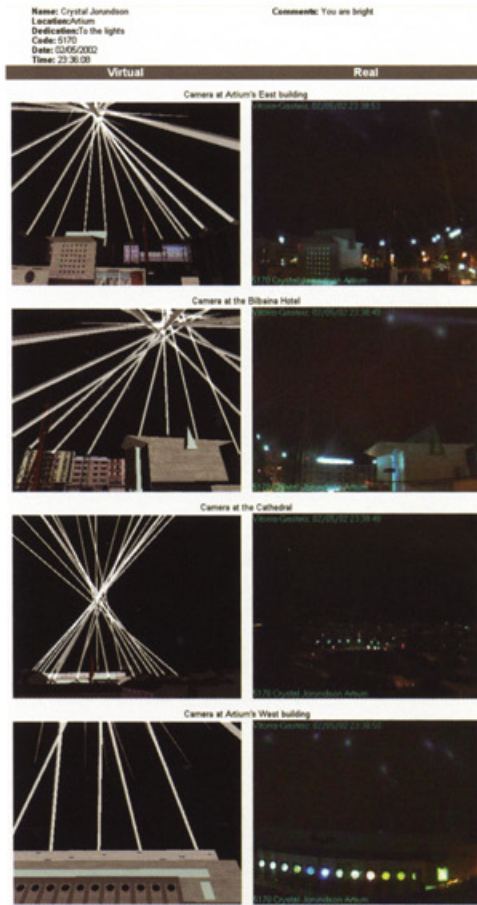


RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER *Vectorial Elevation, Relational Architecture 4, 1999-2000*
 (screenshots and installation views) live webcast; version for Mexico City and www.alzado.net;
Critical_Conditions, Wood Street Galleries, Pittsburgh, PA





RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER
Vectorial Elevation, Relational Architecture 4, 1999-2000
live webcast; version for Mexico City and www.alzado.net;
photograph by Martin Vargas



RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER

Vectorial Elevation, Relational Architecture 4, 2002

(screen shot and detail) live webcast; version for the Basque City of Vitoria-Gasteiz and www.alzado.net; photograph by David Quintas

