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Armelle Caron maps of Nuuk, Sisimiut and Ittoqqortoormiit

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ARMELLE CARON MAPS OF NUUK, SISIMIUT AND ITTOQQORTORMIT

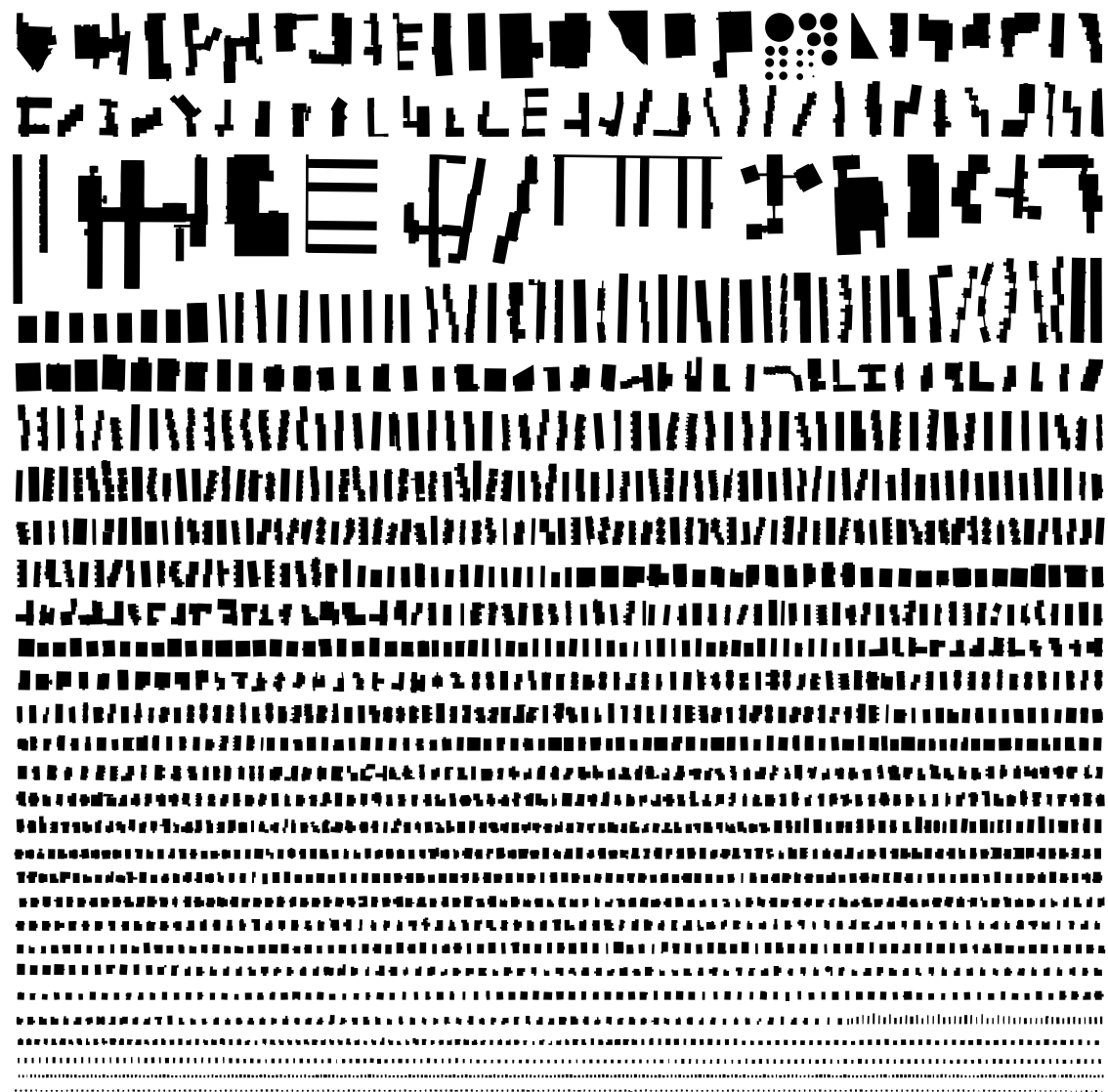
Nuuk
1:10000

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TINA HARRINGTON AND SIV BÖTTCHER, TEXT BY BORIS BRORMAN JENSEN AND MINIK ROSING

Armelle Caron Map

Nuuk

1:10000



Armelle Caron map of Sisimiut

Building footprints 1:10.000



The Italian architect Giamattista Nolli's map of Rome from 1748, with its clear figure/ground pattern, engraved pilgrim route and section plans of cultural and religious spaces, has become the representation of architecture's ability to orchestrate urban space. Nuuk, Sisimiut, Ittoqqortoormiit and other towns and cities in Greenland don't reveal any distinct urban quality when seen from a Nolli perspective. Unmapped in an Armelle Caron fashion, the individual buildings can be depicted and sorted out by typology, but we still have no clue where the arctic-urban genius is embedded.

The Greenlandic municipalities have two different urban elements: the town and the rural settlement. A rural settlement is characterized as Nunaqarfik, which literally means "a place that has land." A town is called Illuqarfik, which means "a

place that has houses." This characterization illustrates the general schism of urbanization. A city is a collection of houses that provides some services, but which comes at the price of loss of connectedness to nature. When you grow up in a small rural settlement, the world consists of your radius of activity. Everything within this domain is yours to enjoy and exploit. You own the world. When you grow up in a town, your life is confined to a cityscape of other peoples' possessions. Your normal sphere of operation is confined by the city limit. The world is global, and you may travel to visit other places as a guest. You become a spectator to a world that is mostly owned by others.