

## Financial Formations: The Tactics and Technologies of Architecture's Financialisation

Matthew Soules

While the 'products' of architecture – parcels of land, buildings, and units – have long functioned as investment assets, recent shifts in the scope, scale, and tactics of investment capital have made the closely aligned phenomena of market dynamics and architecture ever more complex, producing a wholly new form of socio-spatial conditions. From 'profit phasing morphologies,' in which strategies to maximize returns on investment impact the sequence-based physical organization of building complexes, to 'liquidity space,' when the inherent illiquidity of physical architecture is propelled toward being as financially liquid as possible through new mobilizations of technology and the monetization of architectural character, this paper samples a range of phenomena from the stranger-than-fiction-reality of contemporary architecture's unprecedented financialization. In this emergent spatio-financial ecology, immaterial investment instruments are increasingly interconnected with the seeming fixity of wood, steel, and concrete, producing mutating architectural conditions in which form and finance are each other's body double.

### Biography:

Matthew Soules is Assistant Professor of architecture at the University of British Columbia. His work explores the relationship between socio-political ideology and contemporary architecture and urbanism. Soules pursues this work through a range activity, from research and writing to the design of objects, spaces, and buildings. His writing has been widely published, including in *Praxis*, *Harvard Design Magazine*, *Topos*, and *306090*.