SOLAR DUNES: desert BLINK

A constructed dunescape… with southern slopes of mirror-bright polished stone, lifts towards the sun. Concave eye-shaped surfaces reflect light upon pipelines, superheating their liquid contents and powering steam turbines housed beneath their crests.

A rich pattern of mirrored eyes luminous with the sun by day and shifting patterns of LEDs by night … the dunescape blinks!

BLINK!

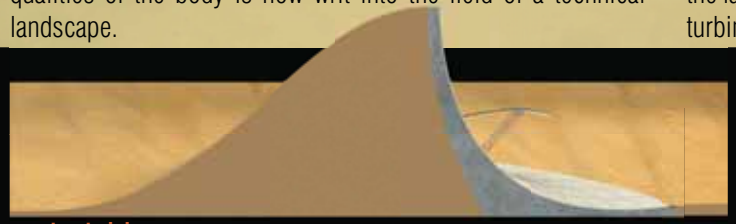
0 50 100m

Solar Dunes
adapt the machinery of
solar powered steam generated
electricity. But, here the machinic array of
mirrored surfaces is bound up in a topographical form: the
dunescape. The machine does not sit in nature as it once did (factories in the landscape), nor does nature camouflage the machine and its detritus. Here the dunes look natural but are a work of geometry and artifice. And the polished mirrors, the piping and its supports interpose within the forms of the dunescape an element of even more obvious artifice. Taken together, the dunes and mirrors create a challenging equivocation between the natural and the artificial. The eye-like surfaces blinking in the dunescape uncannily animate the inanimate –the prosthetic quality of machinery that reproduces qualities of the body is now writ into the field of a technical landscape.

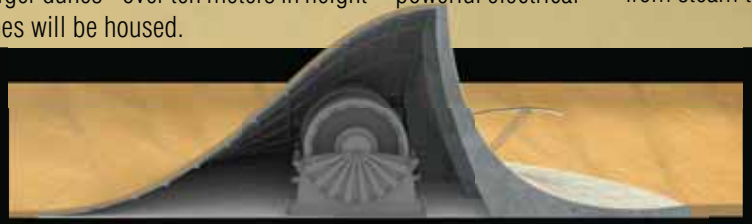
These dunes
are stabilized: an open
mat of concrete, mostly below the
surface, holds their form and patterns their
surface. Concrete ribs and planks form the substrate for the parabolic curvature of the mirrored surfaces. These may be of polished stone or metal as budget and performance criteria permit. The dunes rise and subside, making for a richly varied array of forms, both to look at and to occupy. Under several of the larger dunes –over ten meters in height—powerful electrical turbines will be housed.

Pipes
onto which the mirror
surfaces reflect intense light, will
carry superheated liquid to generate electricity
from steam turbines.

site 2

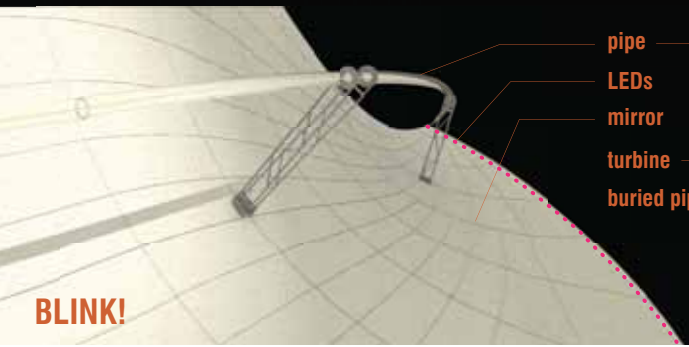


constructed dune

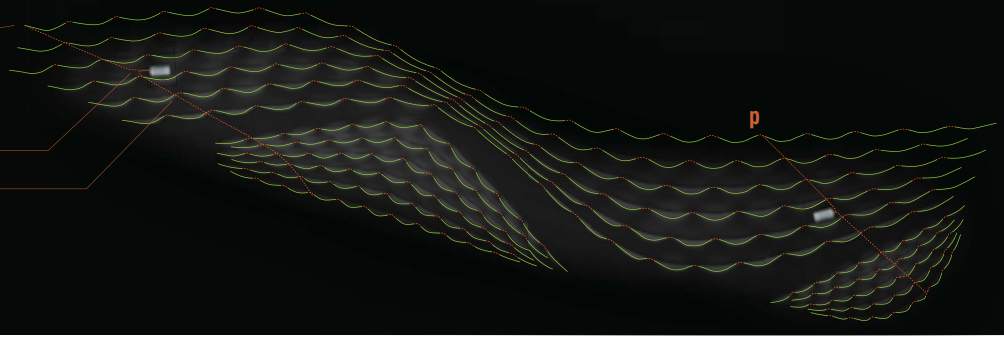


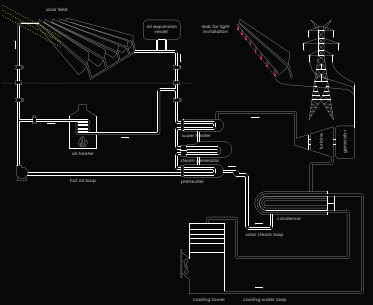
electric generator turbine housed in dune

conventional solar reflector rays



BLINK!





electric power generation from solar array

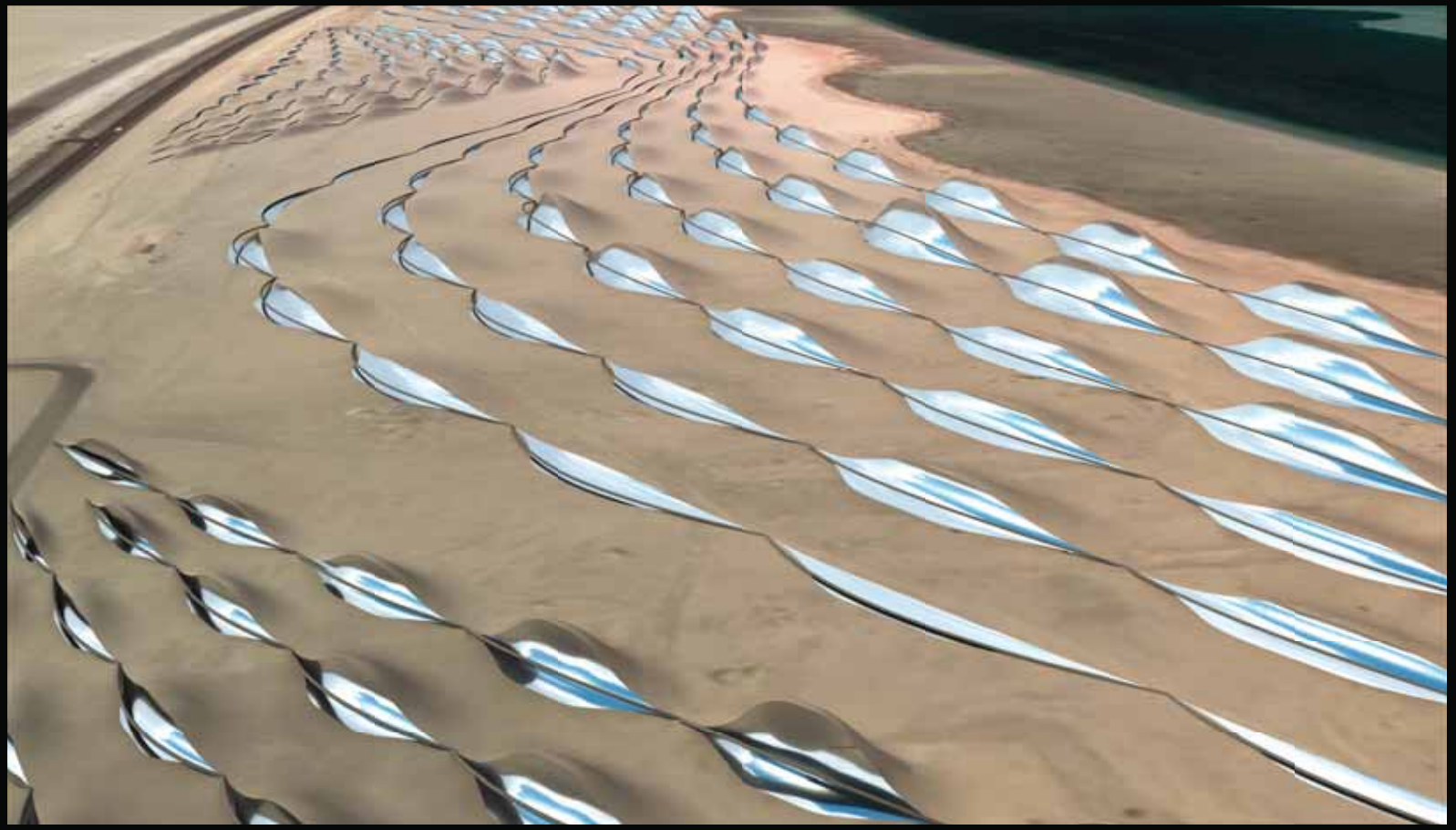
The solar dunescape, artificially patterned, scintillating day and night, is designed to be apprehended at different speeds, at different scales and in different media.

Experienced on foot it is an immersive landscape between highway and water. The dunes, large in scale, are a park. From the northern edge, by the water, they hide their technical apparatus, and appear as a somewhat excessively regular sand dune landscape.

Seen from a speeding car, the patterned surfaces come into view stretched along the horizon at the speed of a blink.

From an airplane, the pattern of the dunes takes on an iconic character: in an abstract logo in the land ecological solar power generation and the esthetic organization of experience converge.

Seen on a computer screen the site is patterned at a scale that is visible on Google Earth and establishes itself as logo-scape linked to the innovative synthesis of ecological power generation and art to be established here in the UAE.



from anywhere

from air

from automobile

by foot

20:25 NEW DEHLI	EM324	ON TIME
20:25 LONDON	BA7566	ON TIME
20:26 CAPE TOWN	SA132	ON TIME
20:26 CAIRO	EM4437	ON TIME
20:27 DUBAI	EM4229	DELAY

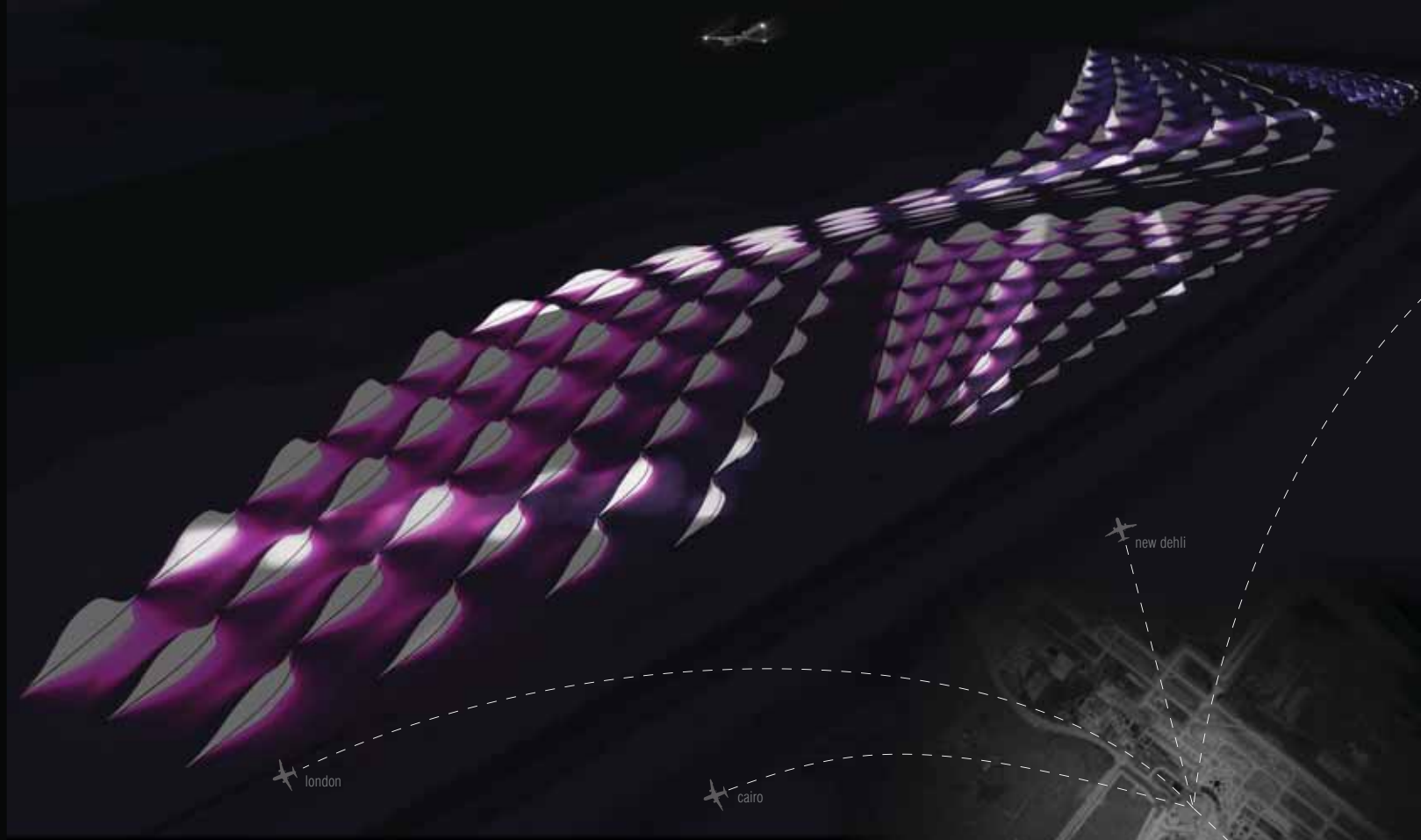
20:25'30 PM ARRIVAL NEW DEHLI

Airport Concourse

20:25'45 PM DEPARTURE LONDON

20:26'00 PM ARRIVAL CAPE TOWN

20:26'15 PM DEPARTURE CAIRO



By night Solar Dunes turns into an informational ornament. The trajectory of air travel between Abu Dhabi and international destinations is mapped as trailing light patterns upon the mirrors of the dunes. LEDs embedded at the foot of each mirror brighten and dim set by the arrivals and departures from Abu Dhabi airport. This pattern of light-play treats information as ornament. Animated patterns are generated by the cosmopolitan globalized circumstances of life in Abu Dhabi.

The pattern of lights of this energy landscape may be, in turn, used as a logo in a variety of sites: as a luminous floor pattern of the Abu Dhabi airport ticket concourse, as a screen ornament app in iPhone, as a splash screen for Emirates airlines, and elsewhere. . . This image of the new electrical landscape will be an emblem of a convergence: between sustainable energy production and environmental art.