Lab 2 - Powerful examples

This lab has two main components: the first one will require you to find a partner and work together with her/him; and the second one will involve group discussion.

Paired activity

In pairs, find three examples where web maps are used to communicate an idea. Complete the following sheet for each example:

- **Substantive**

  - `Title`: Title of the map/project
  - `Author`: Who is behind the project?
  - `Big idea`: a "one-liner" on what the project tries to accomplish
  - `Message`: what does the map try to get accross

- **Technical**

  - `URL`:
  - `Interactivity`: does the map let you interact with it in any way? Yes/No
  - `Zoomable`: can you explore the map at different scales? Yes/No
  - `Tooltips`:
  - `Basemap`: Is there an underlying map providing geographical context? Yes/No. If so, who is it provided by?
  - `Technology`: can you guess what technology does this map rely on?

Post each sheet as a separate item on the Teams channel for `Lab No.2`

As an example, here's the sheet for the project "A map of every building in America"

The New York Times | U.S.   → Share

A MAP OF EVERY BUILDING IN AMERICA

By TIM WALLACE, DEREK WATKINS and JOHN SCHWARTZ
Oct. 12th, 2018

Most of the time, The New York Times asks you to read something. Today we are inviting you, simply, to look. On this page you will find maps showing almost every building in the United States.

Why did we make such a thing? We did it as an opportunity for you to connect with the country's cities and explore them in detail. To find the familiar, and to discover the unfamiliar.

So … look. Every black speck on the map below is a building, reflecting the built legacy of the United States.

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- **Substantive**

  - `Title`: A map of every building in America
  - `Author`: The New York Times
  - `Big idea`: Show patterns in the built environment through building footprints
  - `Message`: The project displays a map of the US where only building footprints are shown. This element is used to show a) how much buildings tell about places and the build environment, and b) some interesting specific examples that illustrate large trends in society (e.g. urban sprawl)

- **Technical**

  - `URL`: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/10/12/us/map-of-every-building-in-the-united-states.ht
  - `Interactivity`: Yes
  - `Zoomable`: Yes
  - `Tooltips`: No
  - `Basemap`: Yes, Mapbox/OpenStreetMap
  - `Technology`: MapboxGL

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Class discussion

We will select a few examples posted and collectively discuss (some of)
the following questions:

1. What makes them powerful, what "speaks" to us?
2. What could be improved, what is counter-intuitive?
3. What design elements do they rely on?
4. What technology do they use?