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The similarities between utopian architectural forms and standardized testing are many. Both set forth a behavioral model that is designed to elicit a prescribed set of actions, which are then measured, codified, and folded back into the dynamic relationship set in motion. These models also involve rhetorical strategies, employing terms such as ‘efficiency’ and ‘progress’ that reassure the user that they will benefit from the process.

Art, as Deleuze and Guattari suggest is a form of ‘desiring-machine’ that functions only as it breaks down. While art can be found in the elegant forms of the geodesic dome, or the masterfully-designed standardized test, it can also be found in the margins, the gaps, the areas where the dome leaks, or the test simply measures how well one can take the test. These SCANTRON landscapes provide a view of a utopia that is unrealizable, even as architects in both fields continue their construction.

