

Infrastructure and Proactive

I did not hear these two words until middle age. I am suspicious of new words for old things. Might this be a trick?

Infrastructure refers to objects and works we rely on – roads, bridges, and power lines. Though the ancients had roads and bridges, the word infrastructure did not appear. Are we trying to kid somebody? Make our culture more technical, more official, less like us? Does this have something to do with science and technology, which determine our lives?

The other word is proactive, it means anticipating and influencing conditions to come. The date for the introduction of infrastructure is 1927, for proactive, 1933.

Both words to our surprise indicate something missing, not arriving. Of course we have had roads and bridges for thousands of years and we have always done our best to influence events. The appearance of these words in 1927 and 1933 has much to do with a readjustment of our place in a technical world of science. We are to serve infrastructure, remain silent if we are uncomfortable when poorly served. Our serving infrastructure is most apparent with electricity, its grid, and owners.

The term proactive is a feeble, if misleading, reassurance as we give up, for technical reasons, the influence we had. If new words made you think you had new powers, think again. You have less. If you would like to be proactive, change the infrastructure, then join the appropriate technical team; don't try something on your own.

At Zomeworks we have made many unfortunate moves. Our simple innovations to use the sun and nature, ways to be proactive by altering infrastructure, did neither. While our efforts were guided by popular notions of evolution and progress, they failed. The universe, as explained by Charles Darwin and more recently by Peter Dawkins, isn't so straightforward. Things have not worked out. Devices, methods, styles, which seemed promising and were repeated by some, have almost entirely died out, while the use of subsidized PV panels on the electric grid has boomed. Things have changed, not as in evolution by the survival of better kinds of buildings, but determined by new truths created by legislatures and bureaucrats, myths supported by slogans and financial pressures. They flourish by grid-tie lies, not demonstrable off-grid truths.

Why shudder at the promise of evolving into a solar grid tie insect colony, a hive or nest?

Man and his societies can steer evolution where nature would never go, navigate around corners, reach designs impossible for evolution. That is what "Game Changing" new technologies do. Some leaders see what nature cannot see. The question is, are we serving a truth or simply a new elite who discourages what they don't own – and herds us into markets they control?

Isn't this behind the silence, when one asks the green promoters "Where are the clotheslines, where are the skylights?" Ask yourself what economic concern, other than a hapless citizen, would choose a clothesline, a skylight, when drying clothes can be done electrically, as can daytime lighting.

Exploiting nature, as convection does, and which we tried at Zomeworks, is one approach; a modern way uses electricity and a chip that tells the pump or fan what to do. Omitting the pump, fan, sensor and power is a sad triumph and amounts to no more than backwards rudeness. Consider how this snubs man's ingenuity. We are reminded to use electricity; look at the electric wonders, lights, motors, computers. The list grows. What about another view, the non-electric? It may be legitimate but it won't be elected. Who would finance a non-electric campaign? And that is how we shop these days. Our prices are legislated and electricity wins, it is a favorite of the money boys. You can own electricity, buy it, sell it, count it. The non-electric isn't such a good fit. You may think that when you turn off the TV and shove aside the newspapers, that you disconnect from the system, but you don't. It calls from every corner, every box. You are a convenience for industry, technology, money, and it is getting worse, a convenience for your exploitation. However, you can have anything you want, as long as it belongs to them.