# Abandoned Spaces in the physical and online world

**Differences and similarities of abandoned spaces in two different worlds**

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## Introduction



Thinking of abandoned spaces, you can think of abandoned houses or mills. But abandoned spaces can evolve everywhere in any form. Like in the online world, or the world within the browser. The world wide web contains a lot of these abandoned spaces, they can be a bit hidden, searching them with a search-engine. These online abandoned spaces have lots of parallels with abandoned spaces in the physical world.

Why a comparison between these spaces in two totally different worlds? Because of my fascination for abandoned spaces, I wanted to see if these spaces also exist inside of the online world, a world with a lot of parallels with the physical world.

**Abandoned spaces in the physical world**

**What are these abandoned spaces, where can they be found and how do they look like?**
Abandoned spaces in the physical world exist everywhere, from the littlest playground to complete towns, they can all be abandoned. Some don't last long after being abandoned, some do.  Abandoned in the dictionary at http://dictionary.reference.com has the following meaning:

a·ban·doned
 /əˈbændənd/ [uh-ban-duhnd]
–adjective
1.      forsaken or deserted: an abandoned building; an abandoned kitten.
2.      unrestrained or uncontrolled; uninhibited: She danced with abandoned enthusiasm.
3.      utterly lacking in moral restraints; shameless; wicked: an abandoned and dissolute ruler.

All through history abandoned spaces play a big part, for instance there are the ruins from the ancient Greek like Ephesus, witch learned people from modern times a lot about the Greek times[1]. Or the abandoned mills in England witch stand for the industrialization in 1800[2]. Al these spaces are still there waiting for a new function or family. Sometimes this new function or family comes, like the Van Nelle factory in Rotterdam. This used to be a big producing factory of coffee and thee, but now houses designers, artists and creative companies. It is also called the design-factory[3].
Some of the spaces aren't abandoned for a long time, they get a new purpose (like the Van Nelle factory, mentioned above) or are demolished so a new building can take its place. This happens at places where there is no room for abandoned buildings, or buildings with no function. An exaple is Las Vegas, see here a video of a hotel being demolished[4].
Others are empty for a long time, slowly being demolished by time, nature and the weather. These spaces can be anything. There are for instance the town of Prypiat, explained in the next paragraph, or the ghost towns in the Midwest of the USA, explained in the third paragraph.
It also depends on the policy a government is having about property and ownership. In the Netherlands, for example, when a house is abandoned it can be squatted after a year of nobody doing anything about it[5]. But this law is changing, so this will no longer be a solution to the vacancy of houses or commercial properties[6]. Before the law change, the Netherlands didn't have a lot of abandoned spaces. Most of them where occupied by students, artists or small businesses. This also helped with the maintenance of these buildings.
In England the policy is different, here the term squatting refers to occupying an empty house in a city. The owner of a house must go through various of legal proceedings to evict a squatter from a building. If there was

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephesus
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution
3. http://www.ontwerpfabriek.nl/
4. http://weburbanist.com/2008/03/05/16-sweet-and-scary-building-demolitions-in-action/
5. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatting#Netherlands
6. http://squat.net/en/news/netherlands181209.html (For the different countries see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatting.

no forced entry, he must prove that the house is his and that he alone has access to it. The same counts for the squatter, if he can prove that he alone has access to the house, he can stay.

Prypiat, Chernobyl.

Chernobyl[7] is considered the worst nuclear accident in the history of the world[8]. In 1986 one of the reactors of the nuclear power plant in Ukraine (which, by then still was a part of the Soviet Union) exploded, during a test, and released a cloud of radioactivity.

Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union, witch was in cold war with the USA, and didn't want this news to come out, they kept it quit for the outside world. The first foreign country to notice that a huge disaster happened was the USA, from the satellites from NASA. The people in Prypiat weren't informed either of the gravity of the disaster, and just went on with their lives. Not knowing that the whole town of Prypiat was contaminated with radioactivity. Pripyat was officially called atomograd, witch means the town of the atomic scientists and workers, and had 47500 inhabitants[9].

The day after the disaster the government send buses to evacuate the people of Prypiat. The allowed baggage was limited to 3 days of clothes, and no personal stuff like pictures, because of the radiation. Everybody had to leave immediately.

The government didn't make all the information public, for instance, information about how many people died, and why there were still people working in the other parts of the plant after the disaster were never confirmed. Right after the explosion, there were people cleaning the radioactivity on the roof, with no protective clothes, they all died from radioactivity poisoning.

The town of Prypiat has been abandoned since that day, and nobody was allowed in anymore. For 25 years already there hasn't been anything done to the town. Nature is taking over, animals are living there, but the leftovers from the town and the disaster are still very present. You can take tours to the town, only for a limited of time, because of the radiation. Going back, some people go to their old houses, and find photos, schoolbooks and other things they left behind. In the documentary they go back with a man to his old house in Prypiat, be tells that there were things missing from his house. A contaminated fur coat was stolen, and according to him sold to other people.

This example of an abandoned city wasn't planned, and could not be foreseen. It was abandoned because of a major disaster, and can probably never be lived in again. In another fifty years from now, the decay has gone further, and the history of the city will no longer be visible. Because there are no people allowed in the town anymore, the way nature is taking over when a building is is abandoned are good to analyze, you can follow the decay if you would visit the town a few times.

Ghost Towns in the Midwest of America.

In the Great Plains of the USA, located in the Midwest, you can find a lot of abandoned towns, or almost abandoned towns[10]. The Great Plains is one of the poorest areas of the USA, where many farmers live. Because of the climate, which is very dry, it is very hard to grow anything and do this year after year[11].
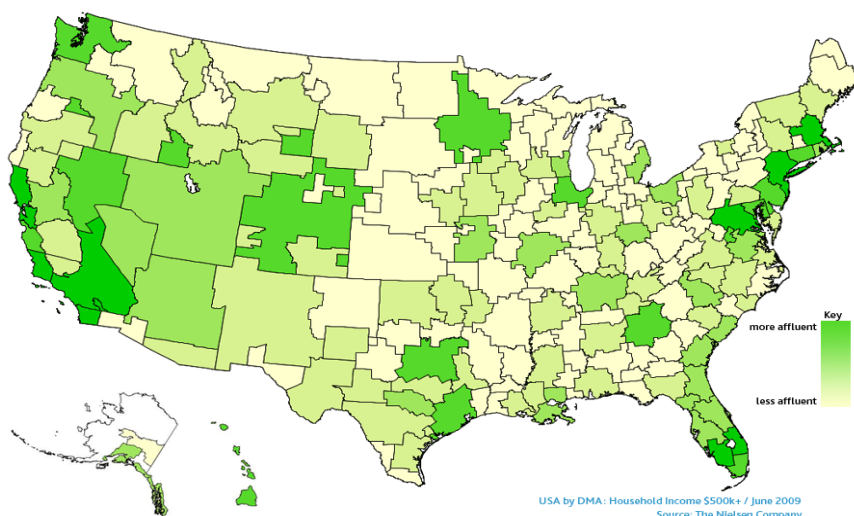
7. http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/chernobyl/inf07.html & Documentary http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-battle- of-chernobyl/
8. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_and_radiation_accidents
9. http://pripyat.com/en/city/visiting-card/2005/07/28/230.html
10. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_town#United_States & Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us.* Thomas Dunne Books, New York, 2007
11. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_plains

*Above map: The Great Plains in green*
*(http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dc/Map_of_Great_Plains.svg).*
*Bottom map: income map of the USA. Here you can see that most of the states in the Great Plains are light*
*green, so the least affluent, in July 2009 (http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire/consumer/us-health-care-debate-*
*the-demographics-of-health-and-wealth/).*

In the times of the colonists, when people started to emigrate to the USA, the the land at the Great Plains was very cheap and the native Indians were very easy to bribe. Fur traders and farmers started their businesses. Most of the farmed were no trained dry land farmers, and not every farmer succeeded. The colonists soon discovered that this wasn't the easiest area to start a farm, the land was infertile and the climate dry[12]. For three generations they managed to stay and keep their businesses rolling, but recently things changed. The new generation is not going to stay, they are moving to the big cities, where they can study and work. When their parents pass away, they do not claim their properties and leave them to be abandoned. This happens more and more, so whole villages get abandoned. It is like a vicious circle; more people start to leave, so the grocery shop also leaves, after that so do the barber, pub and drugstore. After this only more people start to leave, because there is nothing

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12. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_plains#History

left. When the oldest people die, they leave an empty town behind[13]. The New York Times called this area the 'rural ghetto'[14]. But the USA has more of these abandoned towns, for other reasons. For instance, there are the abandoned towns of the gold seekers[15] or the towns that the inhabitants had to leave because of the dust bowl in the dirty thirties[16].
Nobody claims these towns, and they are nobodies property anymore, so the USA lets them be. Similar towns can be found in England, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Germany and other mining countries. Mining is no longer a big business in western countries, and that's why the mines themselves and the mining towns surrounding there mines are abandoned[17].

Abandoned spaces in Europe.
Other reasons for abandonment can have to do with industrialization, the plague/other deceases, military basses that are no longer necessary or the Berlin wall.

**What are the aesthetics, and what is fascinating about abandoned spaces?**
Already in the late 18th century people were inspired and fascinated by abandoned spaces, or by letting nature go. This movement in art, philosophy and poetry was called Romanticism[18].
Romanticism was a reaction on the Renaissance[19], according to the Renaissance Wikipedia-page the Renaissance was: "As a cultural movement, it encompassed a resurgence of learning based on classical sources, the development of linear perspective in painting, and gradual but widespread educational reform." About Romanticism the accompanying page[20] says the following about Romanticism: "Romanticism is a complex artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that originated in the second half of the 18th century in Western Europe, and gained strength in reaction to the Industrial Revolution. In part, it was a revolt against aristocratic social and political norms of the Age of Enlightenment and a reaction against the scientific rationalization of nature, and was embodied in the visual arts, music, and literature." And: "The movement validated strong emotion as an authentic source of aesthetic experience, placing new emphasis on such emotions as trepidation, horror and terror and awe -especially that which is experienced in confronting the sublimity of untamed nature and its picturesque qualities, both new aesthetic categories."

One of the special things about abandoned spaces is that you can find several items that belonged to the former inhabitant, owner or function. Not knowing him or her. It's a dark place, where you know you shouldn't be.
Alan Weisman, in his book The World Without us[21], describes how a home, a city and the whole world will react on abandonment. He states that even if you live in the most postmodern area, far away from nature, with climate control for your expensive furniture, even than nature will overcome. First nature comes unseen, with molds witch can spread at once. But most of all, water will try to get into your home and weaken the roof and pillars holding it.
The things that happen with the wallpaper, the paint, the wood, the frame, the personal objects and furniture will always be different. The climate, location, animal culture all have their impact on the decay. These outside factors can be different everytime, but it is not hard to see them as a building has been empty for say 25 years.

13. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_town
14. See the full article at: http://www.nytimes.com/1993/08/23/news/23iht-topics_7.html
15. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_rush
16. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_bowl
17. For an example in Canada see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_town#Canada
18. Honour, Hugh & Fleming, John. *Algemene Kunstgeschiedenis.* Elfde Druk, Meulenhoff, 2003. Chapter 15: Van Romantiek tot Realisme, p. 642-691.
19. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance
20. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism
21. Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us.* Thomas Dunne Books, New York, 2007

The picture is one of the hotel in Prypiat, according to the photographer. You see the lobby, the check-in desk and doors to what could have been the restaurant or lounge. The check-in book is still there, but no-one has checked in for more dan 23 years now. The floor has broken into little pieces, the paint, or wallpaper has almost disappeared and there are bits and pieces of things and walls everywhere. The furniture in the restaurant or lounge is no longer there. In Prypiat the decay is/was going faster then in other abandoned area's because of the radiation, that is also why the paint, wallpaper and floor look like they've been abandoned for longer than 23 years.

This picture is taken in Bodie, California. Bodie is recognized by the government of the USA as a National Historic Landmark, and it recieves over 200.000 visitors yearly. Bodie was a mining town, because of the discovery of gold in 1859. Bodie grew over the years, with it's top at 2000-5000 inhabitants. When in 1880 other gold mines were discovered, men moved to other towns, like Butte, Montana; Tombstone, Arizona; and Utah. With the majority of miners and gold seekers having left the town, Bodie became a more family orientated town. The first real signs of decay were the printing of the last newspaper and the decreasing profits from the mines. The last mines were closed in 1942, because of the war, the government ordered to close all non essential mines. The picture is taken inside of a house, in Bodie. You can really see the leftovers from the former inhabitants. They took nothing, only the essential. There is a big layer of dust over everything, everything is starting to take over the same color. The decay is subtle but still good visible, everything is being preserved.

**Abandoned spaces in the online world**

**What are abandoned spaces, where can they be found and what do they look like?**
The online world – or, the world within the browser - is different from the offline – the physical – world, and these are hard to map. The online world is very widespread and it exist of many little spaces, connected with each other through links and search engines. These spaces are the many websites the internet consists of nowadays.

Because of the dot-com boom[22] in the late 90's, the Internet grew exponentially. The dot-com bubble was a figurative bubble which grew from 1998 until in 2001 when it 'bursted'.

This bubble contained the new Internet based companies, also known as the dot-coms. Companies discovered that when they made a website, a dot-com, their stock prices increased. More and more companies added a .com to their name, and by 2001 when the speculative dot-com bubble bursted, the profitst of internet based companies became more important. The Internet became more popular each day, and not only companies but also regular people were getting their own dot-com. Companies like Angelfire, Awardspace, Dot.tk and Freewebs were founded. Here you could design and fill in your own website. Some of the outcomes were: little internet companies, pages about a hobby, life, fan-pages, pages about a family. The websites were very simple, sometimes with moving text or animated gifs, but no technical surprises. These pages could be linked to each other with regular url based linking. Some of these websites became very popular, some of them were only viewed by family or/and friends.
With the coming up of the social networks, user generated content and rich Internet applications these simple and personal websites became less and less popular. Not only the visitors of some websites left, but also the owners themselves. They went to social network sites, such as Facebook, or moved to a blog[23]. The old websites were left behind, almost no old websites are deleted, certainly not when it's free. Some of these pages can still be modified after the owner is gone, when they have a guest-book or comment page. Sometimes even only the guest-book remains of a website.
Nowadays the abandoned online space gets bigger every day, because so many people make blogs or profiles on pages. Which they do nothing with, or do just one thing with and then abandon it.

Websites can be abandoned for lots of reasons, here some other examples.
When a company goes bankrupt, and they have to close the whole thing down, the website can be abandoned. Many times the website just gets left behind, with a last notion that the company no longer exists. Like: http://www.icesave.co.uk/. These websites won't be there forever, most of the time when the domain name has to be paid again, and the company doesn't need it anymore, they'll stop. This also stands for companies who are sold to a bigger company or fusions between two companies.
Another reason you can call a website abandoned is when the owner dies. This sounds very harsh, but it happens.

22. Galbraith, James K. and Hale, Travis. *Income Distribution and the Information Technology Bubble.* LBJ School of ]
    Public Affairs , The University of Texas at Austin , January 14, 2004
23. Nielsen, Jakob. *Participation Inequality: Encouraging More Users to Contribute.* Alertbox, October 9, 2006.
    http://www.useit.com/alertbox/participation_inequality.html

Alot of people have a profile page on any social network nowadays. When a person with a profile on , for example, Myspace dies, the page can become a place for friends to leave last memories or thoughts. On http://www.mydeathspace.com/article-list.aspx is a list of people who died and had a Myspace profile. Here you can make an extra page with these memories or thoughts. These pages are still modified after the death of the owner.

The last abandoned website category I will discuss are the old versions of websites. Websites often get redesigned, because of web 2.0, or fashion problems. These old websites are still findable, sometimes with a different url or on a link on the new website. But they are almost always on the Internet Archive, with the Way Backmachine[24] you can look up these old versions. Just type in the url you want to know anything about, and it gives you a time line and all old versions. These old versions can also be abandoned websites, although they aren't really online anymore.

In this essay I will focus on the first category I discussed, the websites where the owner is gone, but are still out there on-line and where you can sometimes still leave comments.

**How do you recognize abandoned websites?**
Abandoned websites are recognizable in a few simple, different ways. I will elaborate on a few of them.

Broken links.
Broken links can be defined by links to nowhere. Abandoned websites often redirect to other websites or places on their own page that no longer exist. For example, take this band's website: http://www.angelfire.com/punk3/mut/. An abandoned website of a band. If you go to the link page, a new pop up window opens. Clicking on the other bands, none of them work. The other stuff has one working link, the one to: savannahunderground. This website is still in use. But on the main page of http://www.angelfire.com/punk3/mut/ even their own picture page isn't working anymore. This is one way to see that a website is abandoned. Often websites have guest books. In the upcoming of your own personal website this was a very popular add-on to your website. But a lot of these websites are abandoned and the guest books were on free guest book hosting pages. Sometimes these hosting pages no longer exist, so a lot of guest books were transformed into broken links. What also happens is the other way around, namely, that the host of the website no longer exists, but the guest-book does still exist. So the only thing left from a website is a guest book.

Info from the page, header & pictures.
In a website there can be a lot of hidden information, for example in the page itself. Sometimes people say when the website was last updated, in this way you can easily see how long ago the owner updated the page. See for example: http://www.angelfire.com/il/geocosmos/, this page shows at the bottom that it was last updated on November 19, 2003. At the links, by means of a little message above the update, you can see when the other pages were updated. They were all updated between 2000 and 2003. Another funny thing is that the three links on the top left of the list are all

Broken links.
Info from the header is easy to access, but it is not always there. In web 1.0 a header is often an image or text about the website. In this header there could be a lot of information, this hidden information is called meta data. This meta data can also be in pictures. For instance, when you take a photo with a digital camera, the camera saves information to the picture, which you can't see if you view the picture. But you can, for example with a right mouse click. On http://savanttools.com/exif.asp you can enter a JPG-image link and see all the metadata that belongs to that picture. This hidden information about when a website was last updated can, on HTML-pages only, be viewed in a browser. Just go to a website and paste the following code into the navigation toolbar: 'javascript:alert(document.lastModified)'. And a little popup window will tell you when the website was last updated.

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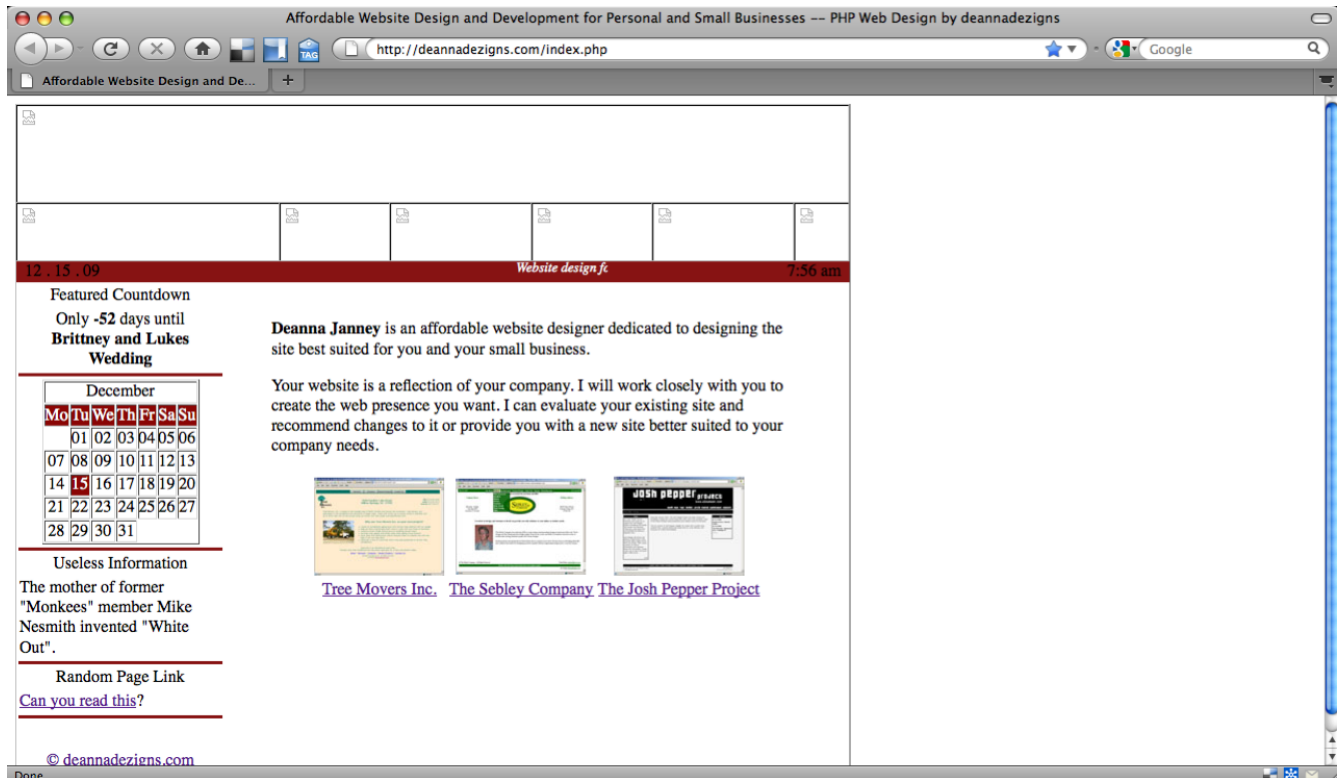24. http://www.archive.org/web/web.php

Server updates.

Websites are always hosted on servers. These servers can be in someone's home, on a local server, or on a public server, such as angelfire, a free server. These servers contain of software, distributed from different versions or companies. These servers have to be updated once in a while, so the hosting will continue to be correct. These updates can affect the design from a website. For instance, things can move around, or things can no longer work, like special features the host offered that were being used, but of which the code has been changed.

Others ways to recognize an abandoned website can be: they're hard to find, last updated at .., dated design, location, broken pictures.

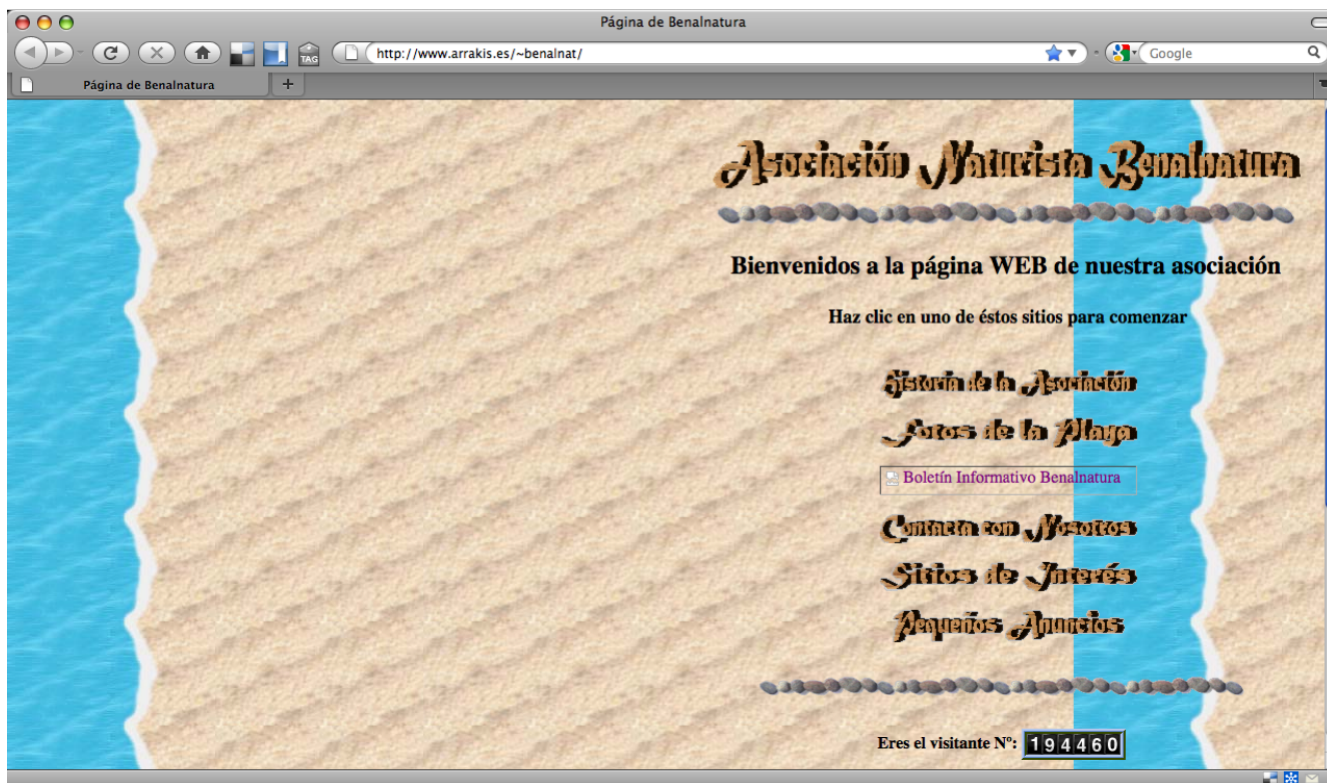**What are the aesthetics, and what is fascinating about abandoned spaces?**

The fascinating elements in abandoned websites are really in the broken things. The broken links, pictures that aren't working anymore, things that shift around because of the server updates or changes in the program. These are little things, and can always be seen right away. The subtlety of the problems that abandoned websites have to deal with is their real beauty. The design of an abandoned website, has also a lot to do with the aesthetics of abandoned websites. Most of the abandoned websites are a few years old and are really outdate d in design. The fashion in design changes so fast lately, companies can and will make a different web site every other year if they want to stay "up to date'. The abandoned websites, are beautiful in their design. They are very recognizable for that time. The ones that people made themselves are most of the time very hard to read, and have absolutely no overview. They place links to one of their other pages everywhere they think is good, but not where you would expect them.

Another thing which contributes to the beauty of abandoned websites is that they are hidden, they are hard to find. So when you find one, the longer it has been abandoned the better.
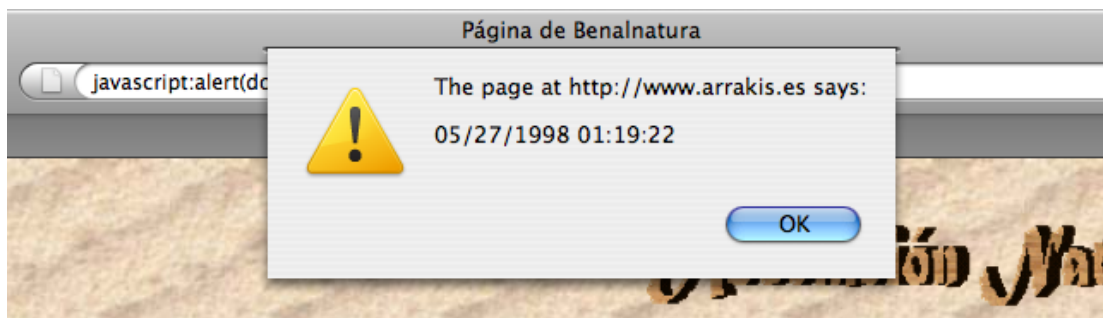


A screen-shot of an abandoned website, http://deannadezigns.com/index.php. The calender wasn't updated anymore, 'Only -73 days until Brittney and Lukes Wedding' it says. None of the header pictures work anymore, but the pages they link to do. This website is very visible abandoned. The aesthetics are in the none working

pictures and the '-73 days to the wedding'. You can also check the HTML-code through a HTML-validator (http://validator.w3.org/). This document has 76 errors, this couls also be a sign that a website is abandoned. In the HTML-code there can also be signs when the website was abandoned, in this HTML-code you can find this: '<!-- copyright 11/06 Deanna Janney deannadezigns.com →'. So the last update was in November 2006.



Another example of an abandoned website, http://www.arrakis.es/~benalnat/. This website is an example of a website where the server-settings were changed. The whole website moved to the right of the page, not all of the link-images work any more and the background-image is displayed twice. This website was last updated on 5-27-1998, this you can see by typing "javascript:alert(document.lastModified)" in the navigation toolbar of Firefox (or any other browser). On this website the following was viewed after typing this:

**Conclusion: A comparison between abandoned spaces in the physical and online world**

**Design & look in time**
In architecture it is easy to define trends in time. The trend to build houses was very different in 1900 than it is now. A lot of factors have had to do with this, like the need of bigger houses, or a separate room for every family member. But also the way in which the building is build changes, for instance, now bigger cranes and better tools and techniques are available. When you see an abandoned house or building, it can't be difficult to see in what time is was build and when the inhabitants left it.
Online this is not very different. The online trends in website designing shift much more often than the trends in architecture. The animated gifs made place for really animations and the Angelfire websites made place for profiles on Facebook and Linked-in.
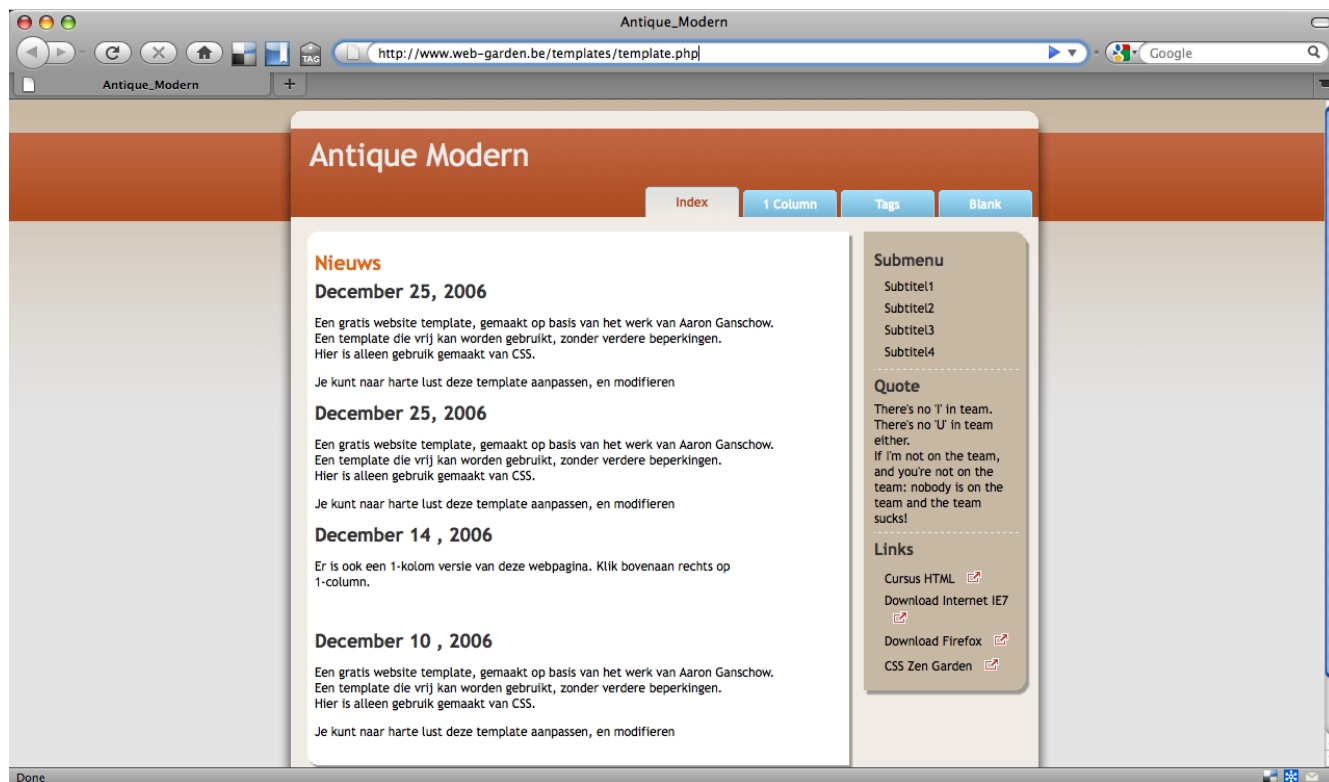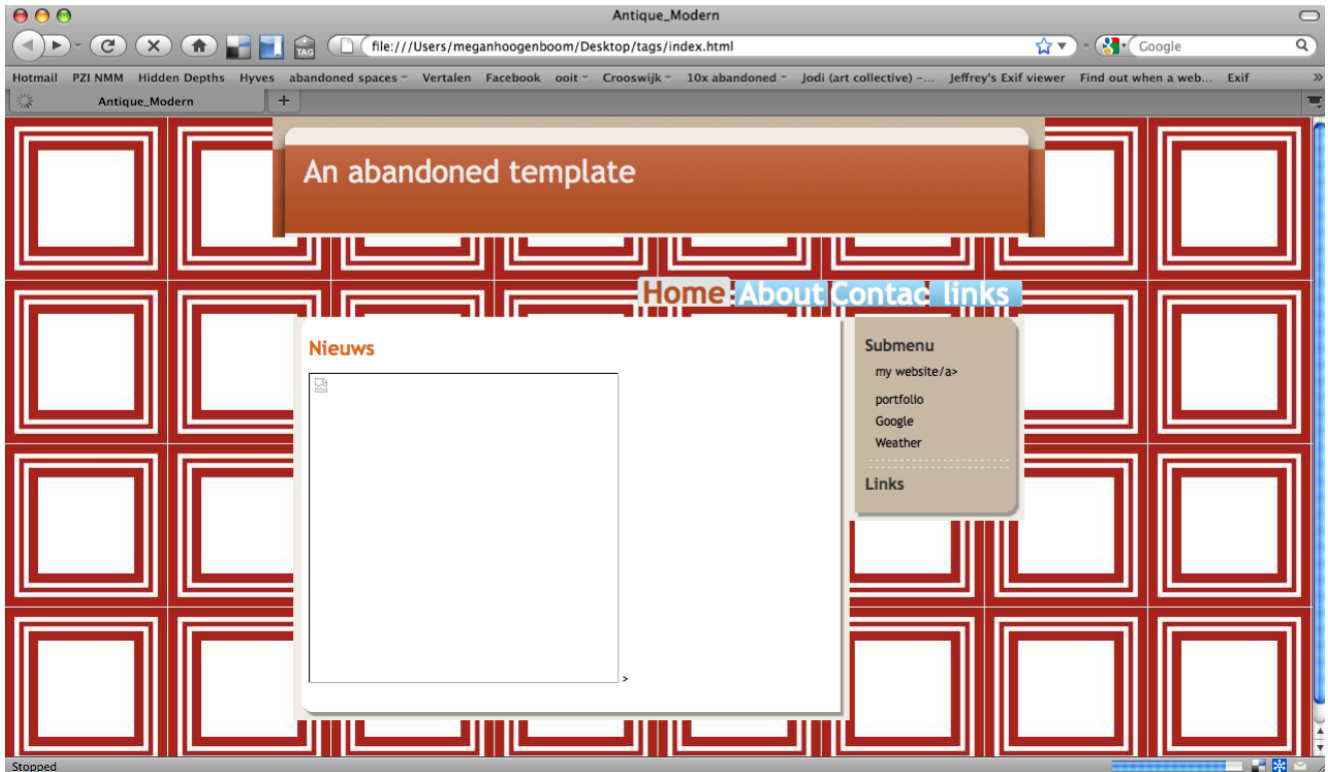


An example of a Facebook-profile, http://www.facebook.com/. On Facebook you can select what add-ons you want on your personal profile page, but the design and colors are always the same. You can chat with other friends that are online, play games, reac on pictures, be friends or fans of other people, tag other people in your pictures of movies and keep a calender. If you compare this website to one of the abandoned websites I viewed in the previous chapter, you can easily spot the differences. The personal-feeling is not so important anymore as

it was with the free Angelfire websites. But the options are endless and new ones keep being developed. The design of abandoned spaces in the physical and the online world are comparable to each other because you can easily see what time the abandoned space was created in. When it was abandoned in both cases is not hard to find, you just have to dig for information. In the physical world this can be a diary, a calendar, or even food. In the online world these are the dates, metadata and guest books.

**Content in time**

The content of an abandoned house will change in time. Because of decay; wood rots away, pictures slowly fade, windows break, animals come in and steel the food and make nests. These are some of the influences that change the content of an abandoned house. The content of an abandoned website can also change in time. Influences from outside can be: people who still comment on the website, for example in a guest book or comment on entries of an abandoned blog. Another way is when the server that hosts the website is updated with new software or different software is added. The way the website should work can change and elements that are on the website can move around or disappear. Here is an example of an template website, before and after abandonment:

(The template was downloaded from http://www.templateyes.com/ the edited one was edited by Megan Hoogenboom and published in the online-book: *Online Abandoned Spaces* at http://issuu.com/onlineabandonedspaces/docs/template_boek2_lossepaginas_vooronline/14? mode=embed&layout=documentview).

Here is an example of an house, before and after abandonment:





(These are screenshots from an animation on the website of the book "The World Without Us" (Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us*. Thomas Dunne Books, New York, 2007) http://www.worldwithoutus.com/index2.html)

Again the physical abandoned space and the online abandoned space are comparable to each other. But there are also a few differences. These differences have to do with the way the outside sources influence the abandoned spaces. In the physical world a house can totally disappear within 200 years. In the online world, when a server is maintained, a website can exist as long as browsers exist. But a difference between these two abandoned spaces is that a abandoned space in the physical world relies on the unpredictability of nature. This extreme form of unpredictability does not exist on the internet, there are a few forms of unpredictability, but these are more reliable on time changing and trends on the internet. Nature relies on more factors than just time, a few examples are climate, location, history of the space and the type of building it was when it was abandoned. Physical abandoned spaces can be squatted, in Holland after a year of vacancy you can squat it and live there for a cheap price. This law excises to prevent that lots of houses and buildings end up empty and decayed. But the question arises if this kind of behavior, not set in laws, more yet in unwritten laws, exists on online abandoned spaces. It happens, not often, but sometimes blogs or websites get squatted. People search for popular URL's or blogs that are abandoned. These blogs or URL's are note updated anymore, but get a lot of visitors. The online squatters

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hack these pages, or just legally buy the URL, and put there content on the blog or URL.

**Location, where do they exist**
In the physical world abandoned spaces contain more abandoned houses or buildings, for example the rural ghetto in the USA. Abandoned houses aren't abandoned for no reason. Many times it has to do with money or the economy, with as a result that whole communities have to leave their houses behind. Houses belong to a community, a town or city. Websites, on the other hand, stand alone. They can be linked to other websites, or can be a community itself. When you find an abandoned website, it is no guaranty for other abandoned websites. The online world has lots of similarities with the physical world, but it cannot be mapped the way you can map the physical world. Of course you can map the online world, but in many different ways. The servers can be located, and it is possible to map which websites are hosted where. Or the links between them can be mapped, from website to website, but mapping all this would be endless. Just because some websites are 'orphans', meaning that no websites are linked to this website and vice versa, they stand alone. Another way is to map the online world through a search engine like Google, with keywords and ratings. These three options for mapping the online world will give tremendous different maps. When mapping the physical world, different options of mapping are also possible. But the different options, like climate and population, do influence each-other. When a climate is unbearable to live in, the population will be very low.

**The presence/absence of human beings.**
An abandoned physical space arises when all human beings leave, the owner, the workers and the visitors. But at an online abandoned space not all human beings have to leave to create one. Only the owner has to leave, the owner can be multiple people in the form of owners. It actually means that the person(s) that update the website have to leave. An physical abandoned space can be recognized when you see the actual absence of human beings. Opposite to a online abandoned space where you can never know if you are the only one there, or is there are many other visitors. Because this abandoned space doesn't rely on the presence of users or visitors.

**Finally**
Having researched and said this, my fascination for abandoned spaces has only grown, especially for the online abandoned spaces. These spaces are so well hidden, they aren't around like the physical abandoned spaces. Finding these spaces can be a journey in it self. When found, the websites can be very unique and special. There is allot of lost information on the internet, witch can be found, trough surfing. With a search engine like http://www.Goolge.com you can hardly find any, but going from website to website it is possible to go really deep into the web.
One question that rises from this essay is: what could happen in the future. Are these spaces taking over, there could be a point when the most internet space is abandoned. Or maybe when there will be something developed like web 3.0, will all the now so very popular web 2.0 be abandoned? Can this development have parallels with the abandoned spaces in the physical world. In 2025 2 out of 3 people will live in cities, so more and more houses outside of the cities will be abandoned. These could be nice comparisons in a few years of time.

# Resources

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