

# INVISIBLE ARCHITECTURES

ON THE CONSTRUCTIONS OF LIGHT, ENERGY AND REFLECTION

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## INTRODUCTION

The following text is part of an ongoing investigation, which is the product of several trips to the Atacama Desert in Chile in 2013 and 2015. During those trips I visited three sites of great personal interest: The VLT (Very Large Telescope) astronomical observatory, set in mount Paranal; the Quillagua oasis in Maria Elena (the driest place in the world, according to NASA) and within it the so called Meteor Valley (Valle de los Meteoritos); and finally the Aymara town of Enquelga, one of the last indigenous communities in the Chilean high plains.

The Atacama Desert in general and the aforementioned places in particular have become for me a field of exploration, with a convergence point constituted by the thematic complexes such as energy and solar light phenomena, light reflection and radiation, our relationship with territory and landscape, the meeting between the “earthly” and the “heavenly” and the relevance of “sightings” into the sky and deep space, a point of intersection between scientific and popular interests.

The present text is built as an associative chain, leading through the previously mentioned fields, thus allowing for the confluence of references and observations made not only during my desert experience, but also throughout my studies in Germany, where I have had the opportunity of visiting various places and institutions of my interest. Additionally, these references and observations are joined by everyday, trivial observations that have caught my attention in one way or another, and which I have felt relevant to include within this context.