

C O N T E N T S

- 1 THE MADE AND THE BORN 6
 - Neo-biological civilization 6
 - The triumph of the bio-logic 7
 - Learning to surrender our creations 8

- 2 HIVE MIND 9
 - Bees do it: distributed governance 9
 - The collective intelligence of a mob 11
 - Asymmetrical invisible hands 13
 - Decentralized remembering as an act of perception 15
 - More is more than more, it's different 20
 - Advantages and disadvantages of swarms 21
 - The network is the icon of the 21st century 25

- 3 MACHINES WITH AN ATTITUDE 28
 - Entertaining machines with bodies 28
 - Fast, cheap and out of control 37
 - Getting smart from dumb things 41
 - The virtues of nested hierarchies 44
 - Using the real world to communicate 46
 - No intelligence without bodies 48
 - Mind/body black patch psychosis 49

- 4 ASSEMBLING COMPLEXITY 55
 - Biology: the future of machines 55
 - Restoring a prairie with fire and oozy seeds 58
 - Random paths to a stable ecosystem 60
 - How to do everything at once 62
 - The Humpty Dumpty challenge 65

- 5 COEVOLUTION 67
 - What color is a chameleon on a mirror? 67
 - The unreasonable point of life 70
 - Poised in the persistent state of almost falling 73
 - Rocks are slow life 75
 - Cooperation without friendship or foresight 78

- 6 THE NATURAL FLUX 83
 - Equilibrium is death 83
 - What came first, stability or diversity? 86
 - Ecosystems: between a superorganism and an identity workshop 89
 - The origins of variation 90
 - Life immortal, ineradicable 92
 - Negentropy 95
 - The fourth discontinuity: the circle of becoming 97

- 7 EMERGENCE OF CONTROL 99
 - In ancient Greece the first artificial self 99
 - Maturing of mechanical selfhood 102
 - The toilet: archetype of tautology 104
 - Self-causing agencies 108

- 8 CLOSED SYSTEMS 112
 - Bottled life, sealed with clasp 112
 - Mail-order Gaia 115
 - Man breathes into algae, algae breathes into man 118
 - The very big ecotechnic terrarium 120
 - An experiment in sustained chaos 123
 - Another synthetic ecosystem, like California 130

- 9 POP GOES THE BIOSPHERE 133
 - Co-pilots of the 100 million dollar glass ark 133
 - Migrating to urban weed 136
 - The deployment of intentional seasons 138
 - A cyclotron for the life sciences 143
 - The ultimate technology 145

- 10 INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY 147
 - Pervasive round-the-clock plug in 147
 - Invisible intelligence 149
 - Bad-dog rooms vs. nice-dog rooms 151
 - Programming a commonwealth 154
 - Closed-loop manufacturing 155
 - Technologies of adaptation 158

- 11 NETWORK ECONOMICS 161
 - Having your everything amputated 161
 - Instead of crunching, connecting 162
 - Factories of information 165
 - Your job: managing error 169
 - Connecting everything to everything 173

- 12 E-MONEY 176
 - Crypto-anarchy: encryption always wins 176
 - The fax effect and the law of increasing returns 182
 - Superdistribution 184
 - Anything holding an electric charge will hold a fiscal charge 189
 - Peer-to-peer finance with nanobucks 195
 - Fear of underwire economies 196

- 13 GOD GAMES 198
 - Electronic godhood 198
 - Theories with an interface 199
 - A god descends into his polygonal creation 203
 - The transmission of simulacra 208
 - Memorex warfare 209

	Seamless distributed armies	213
	A 10,000 piece hyperreality	215
	The consensual ascii superorganism	216
	Letting go to win	219
14	IN THE LIBRARY OF FORM	221
	An outing to the universal library	221
	The space of all possible pictures	225
	Travels in biomorph land	228
	Harnessing the mutator	231
	Sex in the library	233
	Breeding art masterpieces in three easy steps	236
	Tunnelling through randomness	239
15	ARTIFICIAL EVOLUTION	241
	Tom Ray's electric-powered evolution machine	241
	What you can't engineer, evolution can	245
	Mindless acts performed in parallel	247
	Computational arms race	251
	Taming wild evolution	253
	Stupid scientists evolving smart molecules	254
	Death is the best teacher	258
	The algorithmic genius of ants	261
	The end of engineering's hegemony	264
16	THE FUTURE OF CONTROL	267
	Cartoon physics in toy worlds	267
	Birthing a synthespian	269
	Robots without hard bodies	272
	The agents of ethnological architecture	275
	Imposing destiny upon free will	276
	Mickey Mouse rebooted after clobbering Donald	278
	Searching for co-control	281
17	AN OPEN UNIVERSE	283
	To enlarge the space of being	283
	Primitives of visual possibilities	284
	How to program happy accidents	285
	All survive by hacking the rules	288
	The handy-dandy tool of evolution	290
	Hang-gliding into the game of life	292
	Life verbs	294
	Homesteading hyperlife territory	296
18	THE STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZED CHANGE	300
	The revolution of daily evolution	300
	Bypassing the central dogma	302
	The difference, if any, between learning and evolution	304
	The evolution of evolution	307
	The explanation of everything	309

19	POSTDARWINISM	310
	The incompleteness of Darwinian theory	310
	Natural selection is not enough	312
	Intersecting lines on the tree of life	314
	The premise of non-random mutations	315
	Even monsters follow rules	318
	When the abstract is embodied	320
	The essential clustering of life	321
	DNA can't code for everything	322
	An uncertain density of biological search space	324
	Mathematics of natural selection	325
20	THE BUTTERFLY SLEEPS	328
	Order for free	328
	Net math: A counter-intuitive style of math	329
	Lap games, jets, and auto-catalytic sets	331
	A question worth asking	333
	Self-tuning vivisystems	337
21	RISING FLOW	340
	A 4 billion year ponzi scheme	340
	What evolution wants	343
	Seven trends of hyper-evolution	346
	Coyote trickster self-evolver	350
22	PREDICTION MACHINERY	352
	Brains that catch baseballs	352
	The flip side of chaos	355
	Positive myopia	357
	Making a fortune from the pockets of predictability	358
	Varieties of prediction	366
	Change in the service of non-change	369
	Telling the future is what the systems are for	370
	The many problems with global models	370
	We are all steering	375
23	WHOLES, HOLES, AND SPACES	377
	What ever happened to cybernetics?	377
	The holes in the web of scientific knowledge	380
	To be astonished by the trivial	382
	Hypertext: the end of authority	385
	A new thinking space	389
24	THE NINE LAWS OF GOD	392
	How to make something from nothing	392
	ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY	398