MONUMENTS OF A TIME

Conversion of the submarine base of Bordeaux into a data center

1 : 21 000 000

4 200km   2 100km   0   2 100km   4 200km
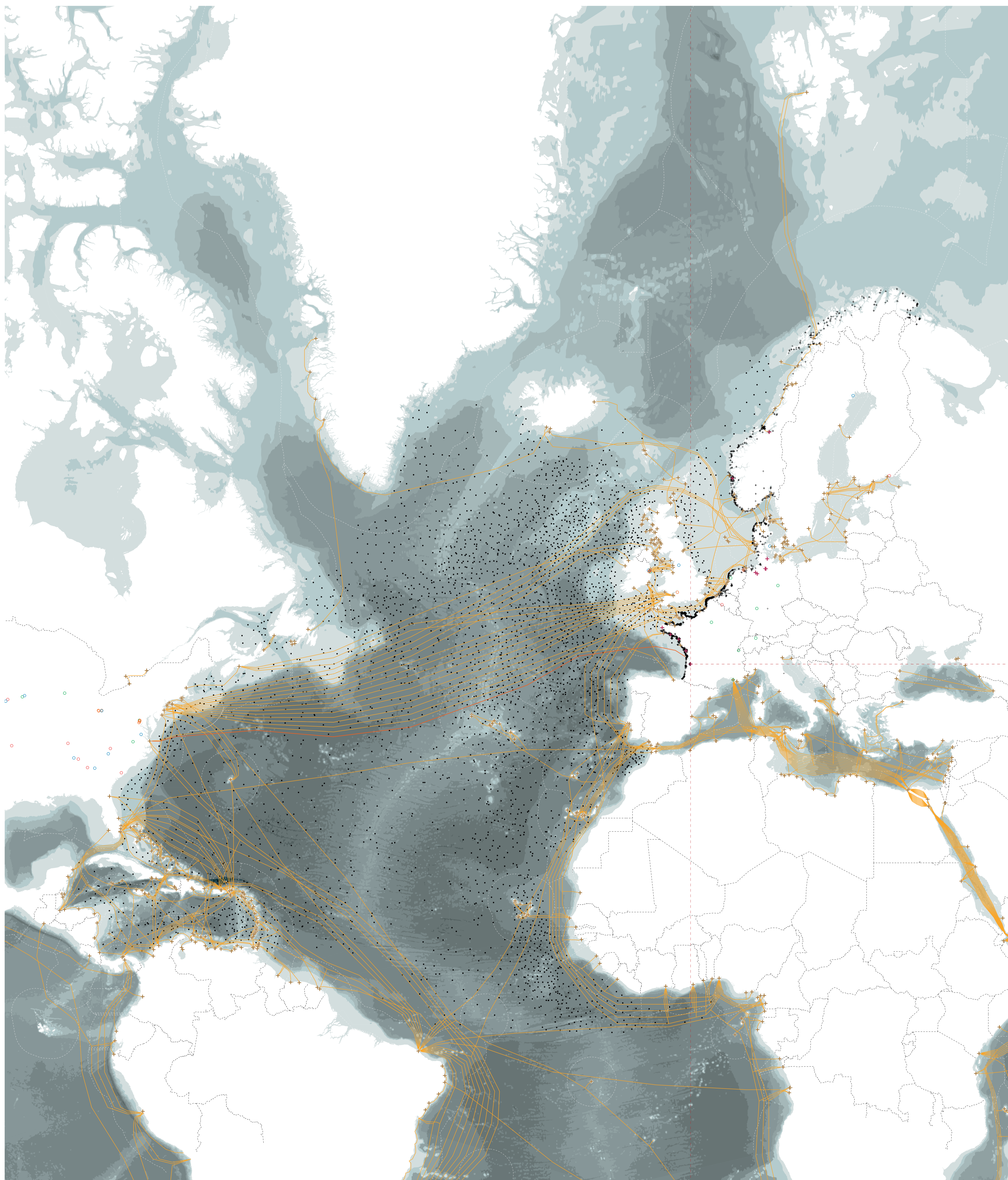
ABSTRACT

Remains of the Second World War, the bunkers formerly intended to shelter the German subma- rines punctuate the Atlantic coast.
The requalification of the Bordeaux submarine base into a data center reveals the intimate comple- mentarity of these two programs through the combination of their highly territorial dimension.

While the servers take over the space designed for the machine, the original flow of the sub- marines is replaced by the one increasing of the digital data. By becoming the place where the infrastructures that support the digital communication of the 21st century emerge, the bunker reaffirms itself as a physical interface between land and sea, witnessing ubiquitous flows that are otherwise imperceptible.

By embodying our cultural contemporaneity, the data center reflects society through the digitiza- tion of the collective history and our personal lives. Despite this apparent proximity between the human and the machine, this emerging program remains unknown to the public who remains alien to this technological landscape resulting from his data storage. The creation of a public walkway crossing the submarine base confronts walkers to this paradox by establishing a new dialogue between the public and the data center.

The submarine base of Bordeaux, which until now was a symbol of a fallen geopolitical power of the past century, becomes the archetype of the one that is contemporary with us. This new societal apprehension of the data center therefore initiates its acknowledgement as the new monument of our time.

LEGEND

- WW2 German submarine activity areas (1941-1945)
- WW2 German bunkers forming *The Atlantic Wall*
- WW2 German submarine bases

- Undersea communication fiber optic cables
- Data centers belonging to the *Big Five* (Apple, Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft)
- Landing stations of the undersea cables

- Continental political borders
- Maritime political borders

1 : 10 000

2 000m   1 000m   0   1 000m   2 000m
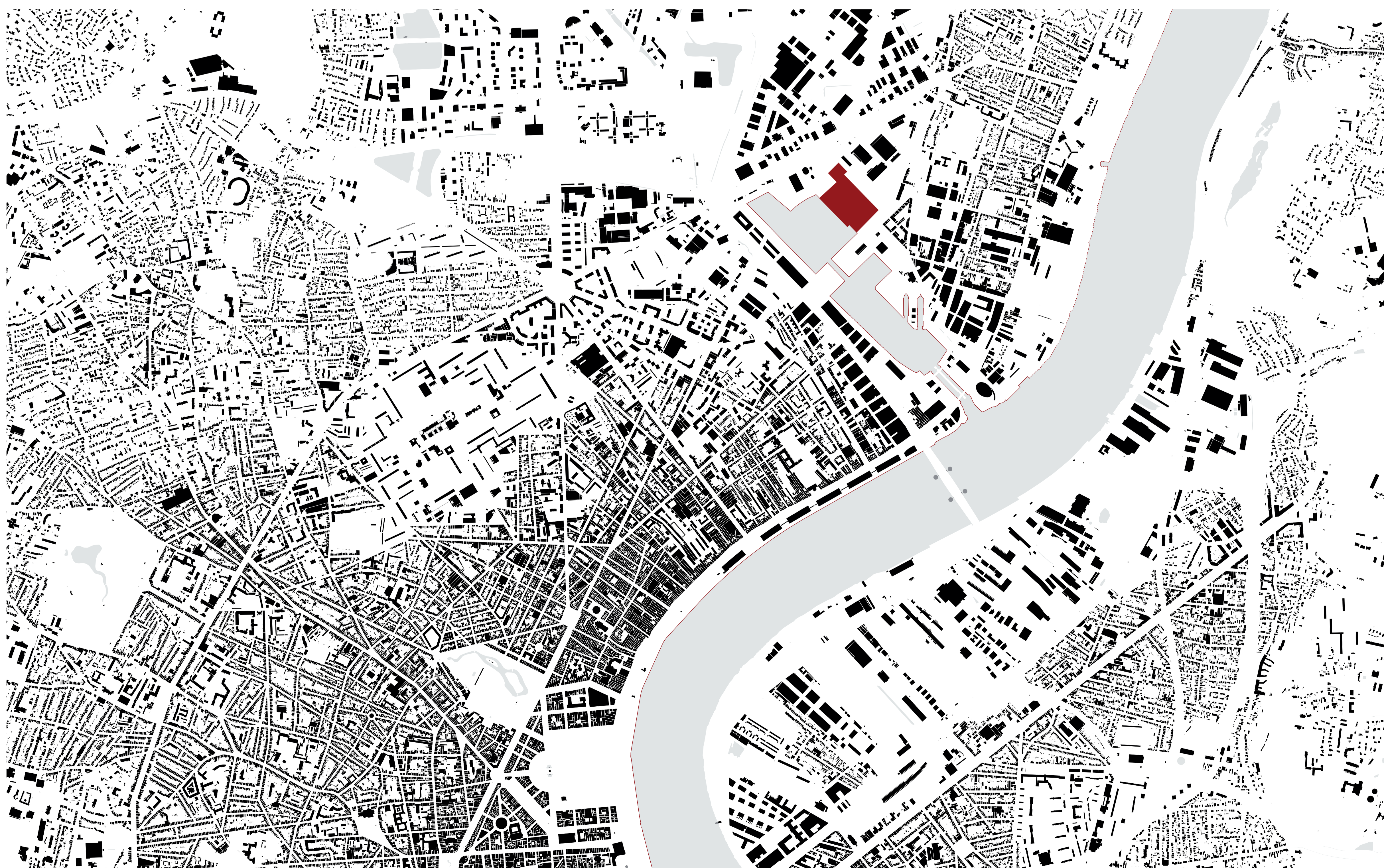
Project's localisation in Bordeaux