



## “The machine in the garden”<sup>1</sup>

“Seemingly - an inborn human trait  
draws us perpetually forward -  
nature is to be mastered.

Unique operations of the human brain  
suspended us between two antipodal ideals  
of nature and machine -

### Forest and city

Then a tragedy-

The wilderness of the world  
has shrivelled into  
threatened nature reserves.

The natural world is the refuge of the spirit  
but we cannot exist in this paradise  
without the machine that tears it apart.

We are killing the thing we love  
our Eden.

Human beings - natural creatures  
torn from a sylvan niche  
and imprisoned within a world of artefacts.

The machine gave no quarter  
the world began to yield -  
first to agriculturalists

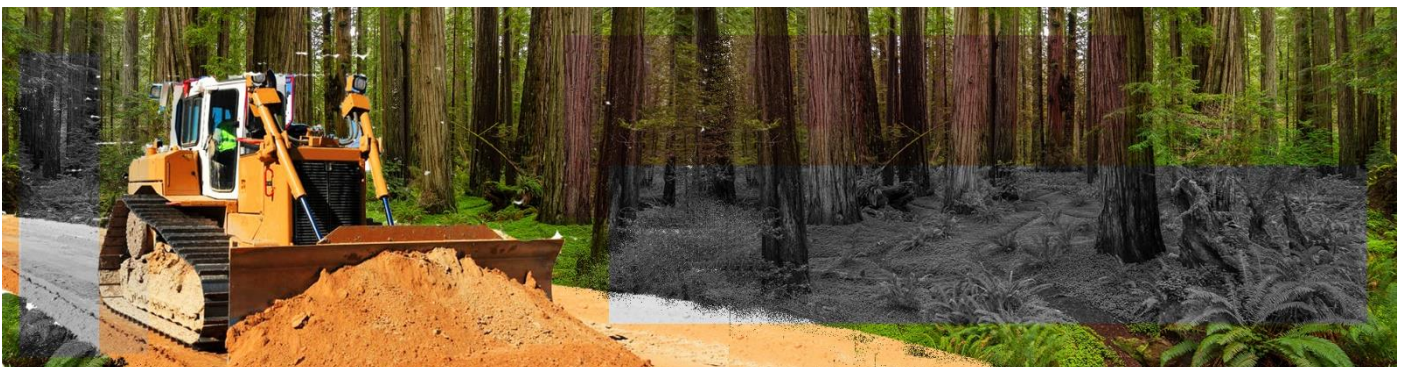
then to technicians - merchants.

Now we are near the end.  
The inner voice murmurs

### You went too far

Disturbed the world.  
Gave away too much for your  
control of nature:

This will be the hell we earned  
for realising the truth -  
too late.”<sup>2</sup>



1 Marx.L (1964)

*The machine in the garden: technology and the pastoral  
ideal in America.*

Oxford University Press

2 Wilson. E (1984)

*Biophilia*

Harvard University Press