Figure 6.1. (opposite) Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, *Vectorial Elevation, Relational Architecture 4*, 1999–2002, eighteen robotic xenon searchlights controlled over the Internet. 3-D Java interface.

The historic center of Mexico City, the most populous city in the world, was transformed through the use of xenon arc robotic searchlights controlled over the Internet. By ensuring that public participation was an integral part of this large-scale interactive installation, the artist attempted to establish new creative relationships between control technologies, urban landscapes, and both a local and a remote public. Visitors to the project website could design ephemeral light structures which played out over the National Palace, City Hall, the Cathedral, and the Templo Mayor Aztec ruins. These could be seen from a ten-mile radius and were rendered in the numbered sequence of their creation on the Internet. Every six seconds the searchlights would automatically re-orient themselves and three webcams would document a participant’s design. These were archived with commentaries, information, and photos of their design. An e-mail message confirmed for each participant when their archive page was completed.

(Rafael Lozano-Hemmer; Photo: Martin Vargas)