



## The Three Houses of Digital

I was drawing an interior view of a house on the computer. I applied distortion filter Bloat to my drawing and the house blew out from the centre as if built on the surface of a bubble. I then applied Pinch distortion filter to the original. The house sucked in towards the centre. I applied the Pinch filter to the bloated house, expecting this would result in a house identical to the original. Instead the new house was distorted in many unpredictable directions - it was bloated in some places and pinched in others.

I decided to build the three houses that had developed from the original and call them House of Bloat, House of Pinch and House of Blinch. The results had occurred from applying opposing filters and I wondered how this might affect my perception of the world. In time a couple of instances came to mind:

### The Truth about Average and Normal.

#### *Average.*

As a child I had a book called The Fatipuffs and the Thiniffers.

Fatipuffs were jolly and very obese, almost spherical. They liked to eat a lot, lay around and party. Thiniffers were very tall and always wore black. They rushed around a lot and were always working.

Fatipuffs lived in igloo shaped houses and everything they had was made to fit their shape. Thiniffers lived in spiky skyscrapers and neither type

could fit in the other type's homes.

The Fatipuffs and the Thiniffers went to war and the Thiniffers won. After the war there was peace and they all learned to live together. They built houses that were like igloos with skyscrapers sticking out the centre.

Curiously, when the Fatipuffs and Thiniffers inter-married and had children, half the children were round as Fatipuffs and the other half were skinny as Thiniffers. I was surprised, at first I thought the offspring would be about average.

#### *Normal.*

In Mexico I see that the large numbers of dogs come in every variation of shape, form and colour. Because most dogs in Mexico are not restrained they form a loose dog society free of human regulations. One of the things they do the most is breed. A person might think that all this mingling and breeding would result in a population of average dogs - they should probably be brown and about the size of small Sheep-dogs. In fact each dog is unique in a quite unexpected manner: There are small dogs with huge heads, huge dogs with short legs, dogs that are one colour in front and another behind, dogs that don't even look like dogs at all.

Seeing all these dogs leads me to think that notions of society as a melting-pot are wrong and that there is really no norm in effect when it comes to evolution - and certainly no ideal type