



BEACHES OF NEW YORK: THE WALL

Advanced Design Studio . GSAPP Columbia University. Summer 2017

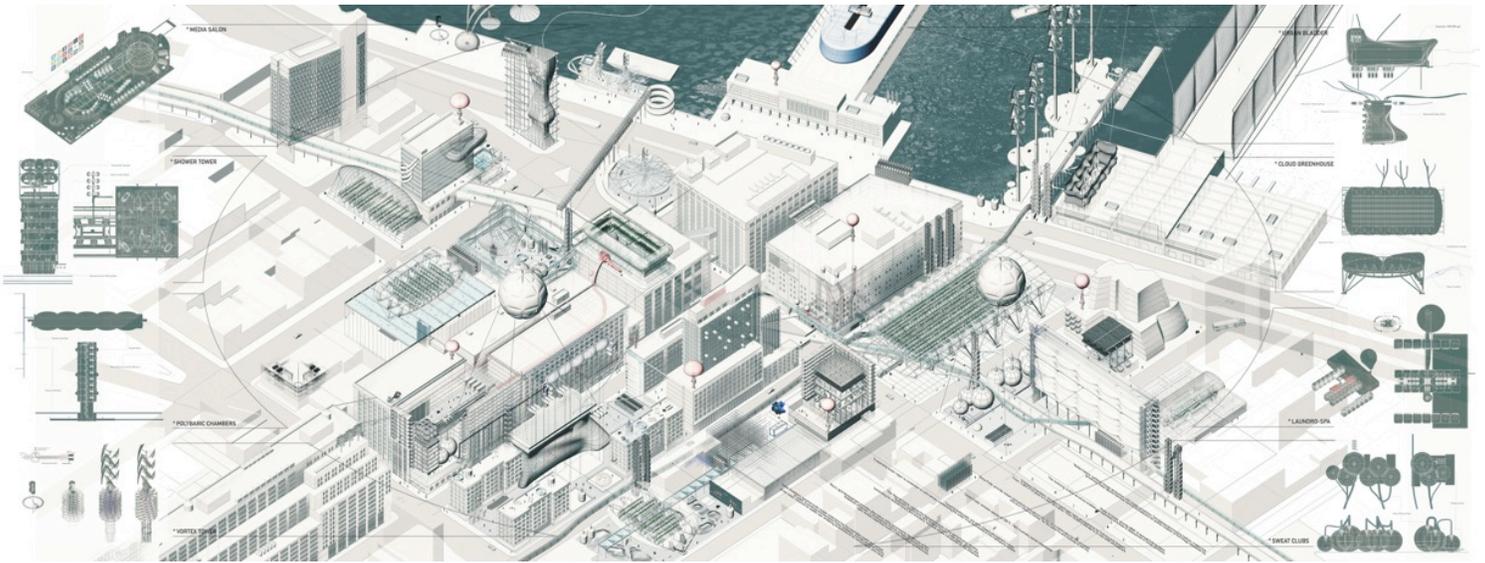
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What is the way architecture defines the line between the ocean and the urban?

What is the way both the World Oceanic System and the Non Oceanic are shaped by that line?

What are the conflicts this line currently embodies? And the way design takes care of these conflicts, and reinvents in the way we deal with them?



1. INTRODUCTION:

This Summer Studio is conceived as a design-based form of summering. At a time of the year in which humans in NY head to beaches, the studio will also move to NY beaches to interrogate, through design, the way the architecture of the beach-line contributes to shape the OCEANIC SYSTEM at large, and the life of NEW YORK.

The November 2013 release of the White House Executive Order (EO) 13653 “Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change”, following the US President’s Climate Action Plan (PCAP), triggered two radical transformations in the way New York beach-lines are constructed:

1. Boardwalks, the ultimate architectural contribution to ocean-front sociability, started to be replaced by concrete walls meant to **fix beach-line as apocalypses-proved architecture.**
2. Beach-lines were no longer a domain of “Parks and Recreations Department”, but were instead taken over by the ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. **Beaches were militarized.**
3. The militarization of the beach-line was one action among others to enhance the US domain on the Oceanic System, at a time in which a new level for sea exploitation is being disputed globally. The contribution of architecture to the geographical definition of the US border

with the sea became momentous in the country positioning in a newly open dimension for oceanic expansion.

THE STUDIO CLAIMS THE URGENCY FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN TO GAIN A VOICE IN WHAT IS PROBABLY THE MOST RELEVANT SPATIAL, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CURRENT TRANSFORMATION IN THE WORLD CURRENTLY. AND WILL EXPLORE THE CAPACITY OF INTERVENING THIS TRANSFORMATION BY RADICALLY REDESIGNING NY BEACH LINES.

An endeavor that could not be more timely nor more adequate to New York, given the fact that the city will be hosting in June 5-9, the United Nations Ocean Conference, in which the future of Oceans will be negotiated.

2. CALENDAR:

Week 01 Inspection

The studio will focus on registering the geographical, normative, political dimension of a selected number of FRONT BEACH lines. This first week will help introducing the studio members in the use of cartographic material, controversies tracing and policy search and discussion.

Week 02 – 03 CONSTRUCTING THE CASES: Field Work + Consultants + Studio Production + Studio Discussion

The studio will spend time both taking the studio to the beaches, and bringing the beaches to the studio. An ethnography of the beaches and the practices they are part of, will be followed to conversations with experts, activist and affected agents in the places where they are based.

The facts, practices and processes detected will be the base for a drawn reconstruction of the different BEACH FRONT LINES, realized in groups of 2-3 students.

Week 04 MIDTERM

The studio will present a selected number of BEACH FRONT LINE as 'cases of design', confirming them as spaces in which design conflicts collide with political and territorial projects at large.

The potential rearticulation of this two set of conflicts (or how to detect the way general conflicts can be translated as design projects) will be the main focus of the students presentations.

Week 05-06 New Scenarios

Each work will develop evolved scenarios of its case of design. That will be discussed by the group.

The studio will have a series of meetings with external advisors that will help introducing expert knowledge in the particular aspects each project face.

Week 07-08 Development and final edition of the work

The works will be developed in a way that its outcome can result conveyable and can intervene the debates of architectural discipline as well as those of beaches, as spaces for contemporary controversy, at large.

Week 09 FINAL REVIEW