A COLLECTIVE DESIGN

PORT■OLIO

VIR SHAH

GSAPP

M.S. Architecture and Urban Design '22 - '23
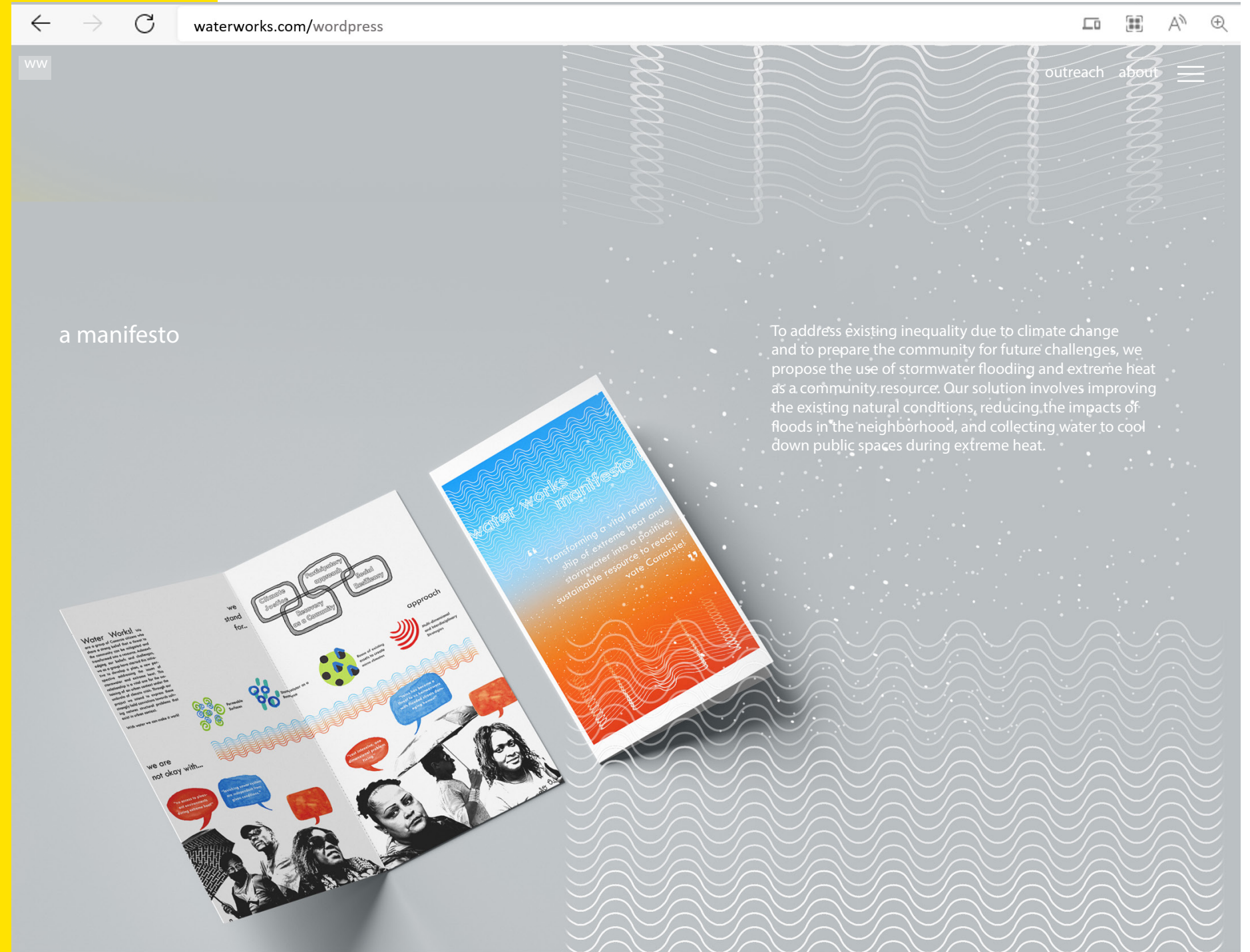
CONTENTS

Water Works

Urban Design Studio I - Summer '22
The New York City Studio: Sites, Systems, Spaces, Stories

Site
Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY

Instructors
Nans Voron (Coordinator)
Sagi Golan
Austin Sakong
Sean Gallagher
Miriam Peterson
Sanjukta Sen
Galen Pardee
Yasmine Katkhuda

Team
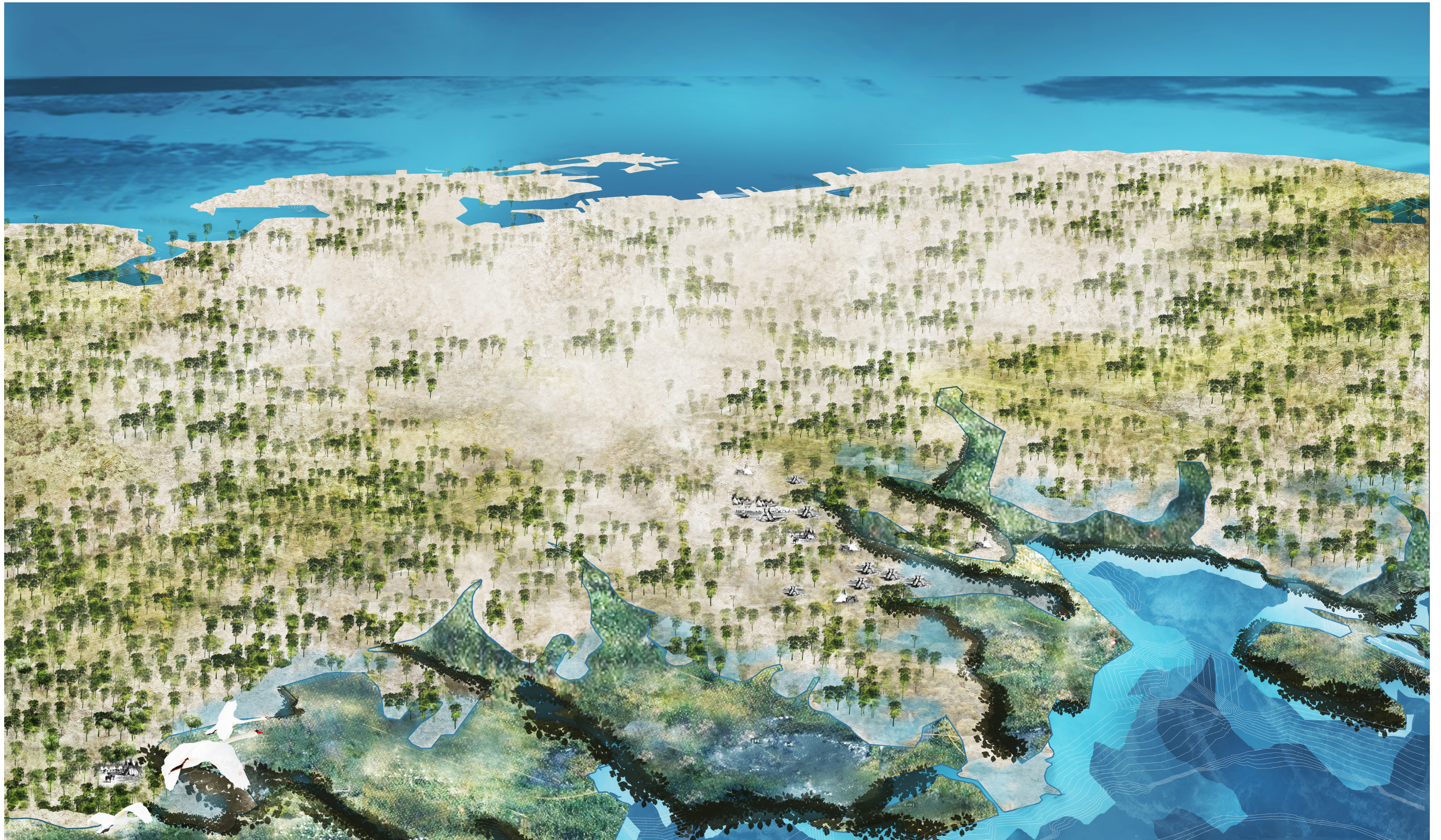Chongyang Ren
Saloni Shah
Verena Krappitz
Vir Shah

New York City faces 370 deaths every year due to extreme heat, and 43 people have died due to Superstorm Sandy. These conditions are faced by people due to extreme climate conditions affected by sea level rise. In Canarsie, Brooklyn, the community of color has limited resources and poor living conditions and are the victim of these weather conditions. These neighborhoods lack investments in infrastructure facilities due to historically redlined areas. Although temporary solutions have been implemented by the city to reduce the impacts of floods in the neighborhood, they are not doing enough for the community.
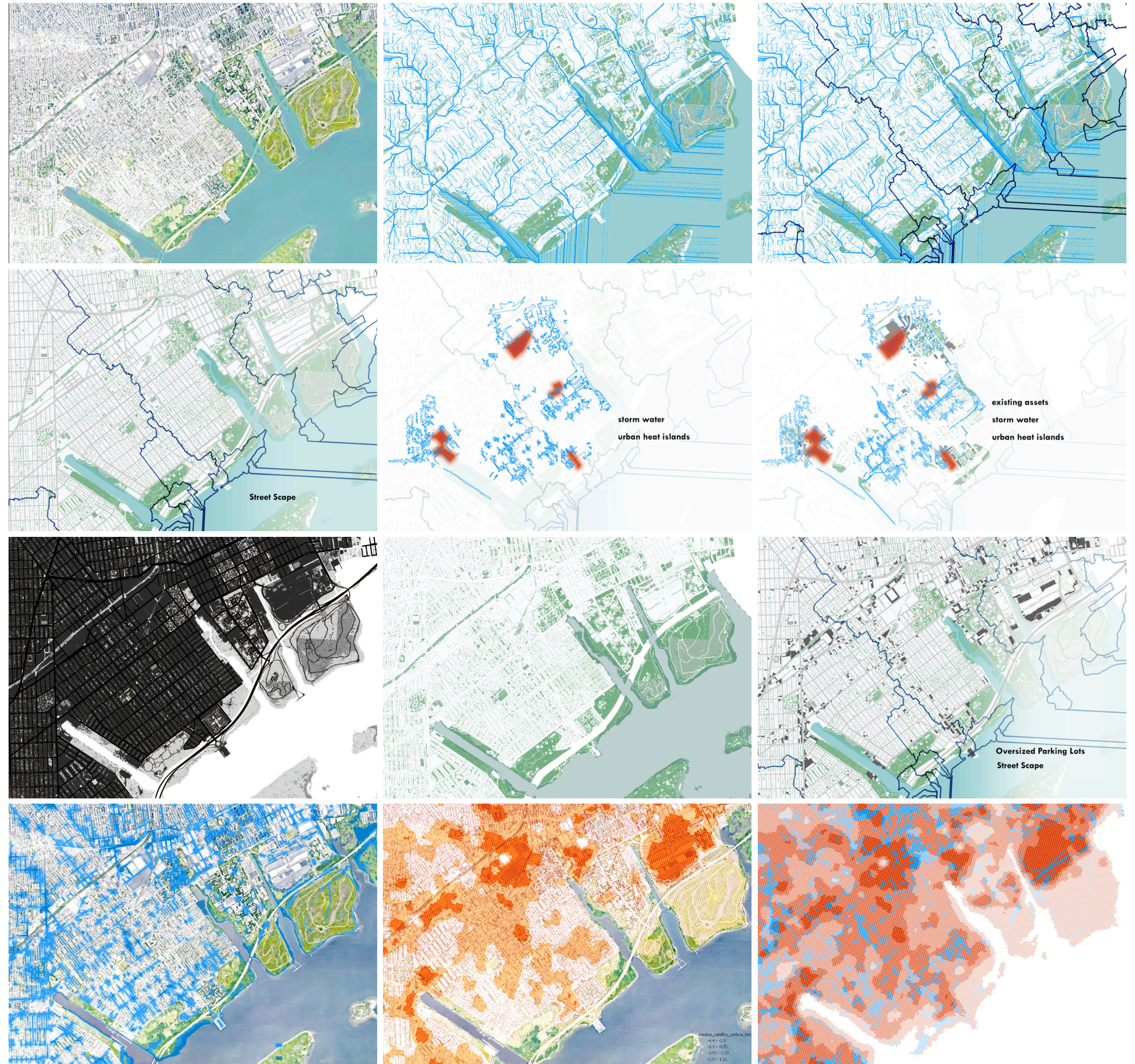

waterworks.com/wordpress

ww   outreach   about

a manifesto

To address existing inequality due to climate change and to prepare the community for future challenges, we propose the use of stormwater flooding and extreme heat as a community resource. Our solution involves improving the existing natural conditions, reducing the impacts of floods in the neighborhood, and collecting water to cool down public spaces during extreme heat.

ww

community engagement

"…rain and runoff are becoming an increasing threat to us, causing damage to our infrastructure and homes!"

"…extreme weather conditions are determining our everyday life!"

"…our children are missing school due to overflowed streets!"

"…short term solutions and one dimensional problem fixing is not helpful!"

"…heat outrages are harming the ones most vulnerable in our communities!"

"…our streets and sidewalks are being flooded several times a month!"

community engagement

summer '22

Fertlizing Systems

storm water
urban heat islands

Street Scape

existing assets
storm water
urban heat islands

Oversized Parking Lots
Street Scape

South Shore High School

Industrial Shed

Vacant Parking Lots

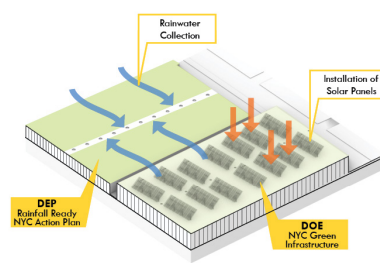Residential Street Edges

■ stormwater flood

■ heat islands

design strategies

industrial shed

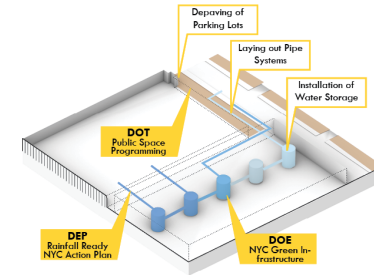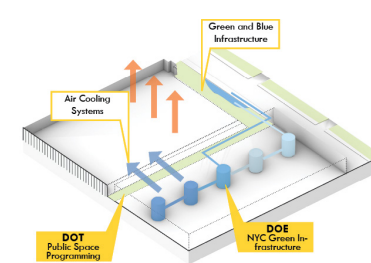## residential street edges
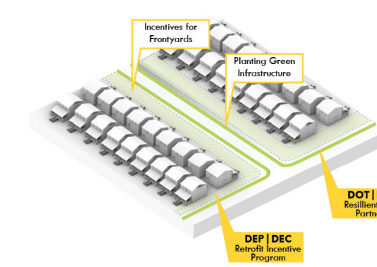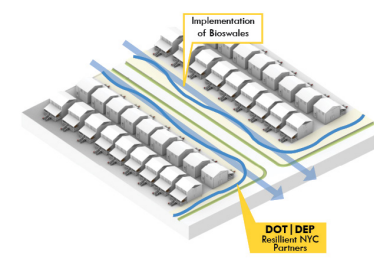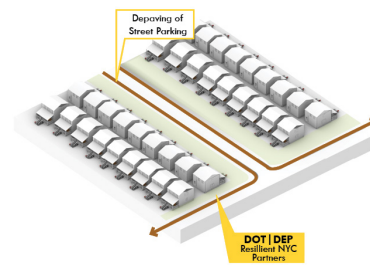
vacant parking lots

south shore high school

Water Collection

80.6°F

H2O

Evaporation

68.0°F

Shaded Space
75.4°F

Pervious Surface
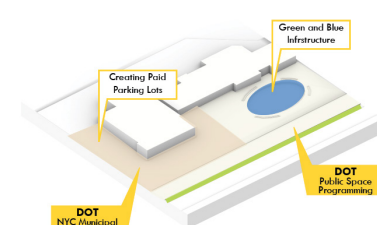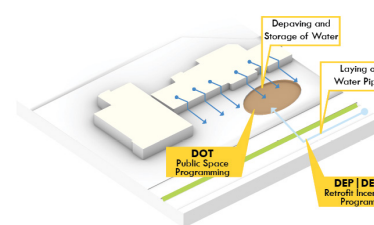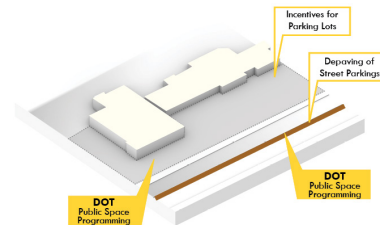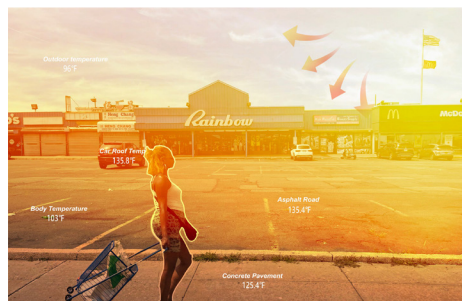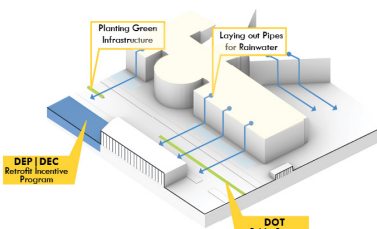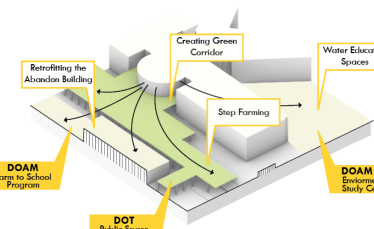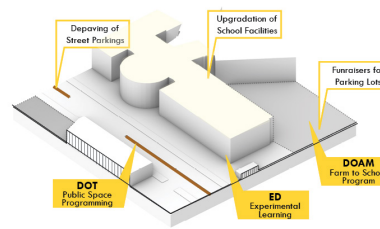
View - Industrial Shed

View - Regenrative Agriculture in School

View - Softening of Street Edges

City of the Forest

Urban Design Studio II - Fall '22
Atlanta After Property Vol. 2

Site
Blackhall Studios, Atlanta, GA

Instructors
Emanuel Admassu (Coordinator)
Chat Travieso
Nina Cooke-John
Regina Teng
Jelisa Blumberg
A.L. Hu
Galina Novikova

Team
Caroline Wineburg
Reya Singhi
Vir Shah
Oreoluwa Adegbola

Property is a social, spatial tool enacted to fortify the regime's continuum of power and control. Through acts of domestication, preservation, and measurement, land and its inhabitants have been valued as resources to exploit and tame. Spaces deemed "natural" are not pristine landscapes but highly regulated environments that continue to reinscribe the systemic cycles of exclusion, erasure, and precarity.

Atlanta has been rendered as a placeless backdrop by the film industry and a tactical testing ground by the Atlanta Police Fou dation. Through the extraction of public resources, flattening of history and culture, and the degradation of the forest and wetland ecologies, the South River Forest has been a site of ongoing trauma since its commodification as property. Blackhall Studio's vision for the future of the South River Forest proposes soun stage expansions that will intensify the imposition of capitalism on the site and erode its ecology as it deforests public land for

private development. Direct actions and advocacy against the proposals are being led by community organizations, including environmental activists, forest defenders, abolitionists, and Muscogee Creek descendants.

We imagine future cultural produ tions throughout metro Atlanta to build toward a vision of spatial and environmental liberation. The performers and place are all agents that contribute to layered, immersive experiences that accrue collective memory and knowledge. As components of the city currently weave into the forest, taming and domestica ing it, we envision the infrastructures of the forest performing the reverse. Infiltrating the city to de-zone, disrupt and erode the structure of the regime. Spaces of fluidity provide few distin tions between the industrialized built environments.

View - Cultural Production after-property

The forest ecosystem has been devalued by the current system and contained by the catographer's lines. Sites most emblematic of the capitalist regime become targets for the forest defender's escalating oppositions as they enable the forest's expansion by physically interrupting order and reorienting spaces for heterogeneous habitation.
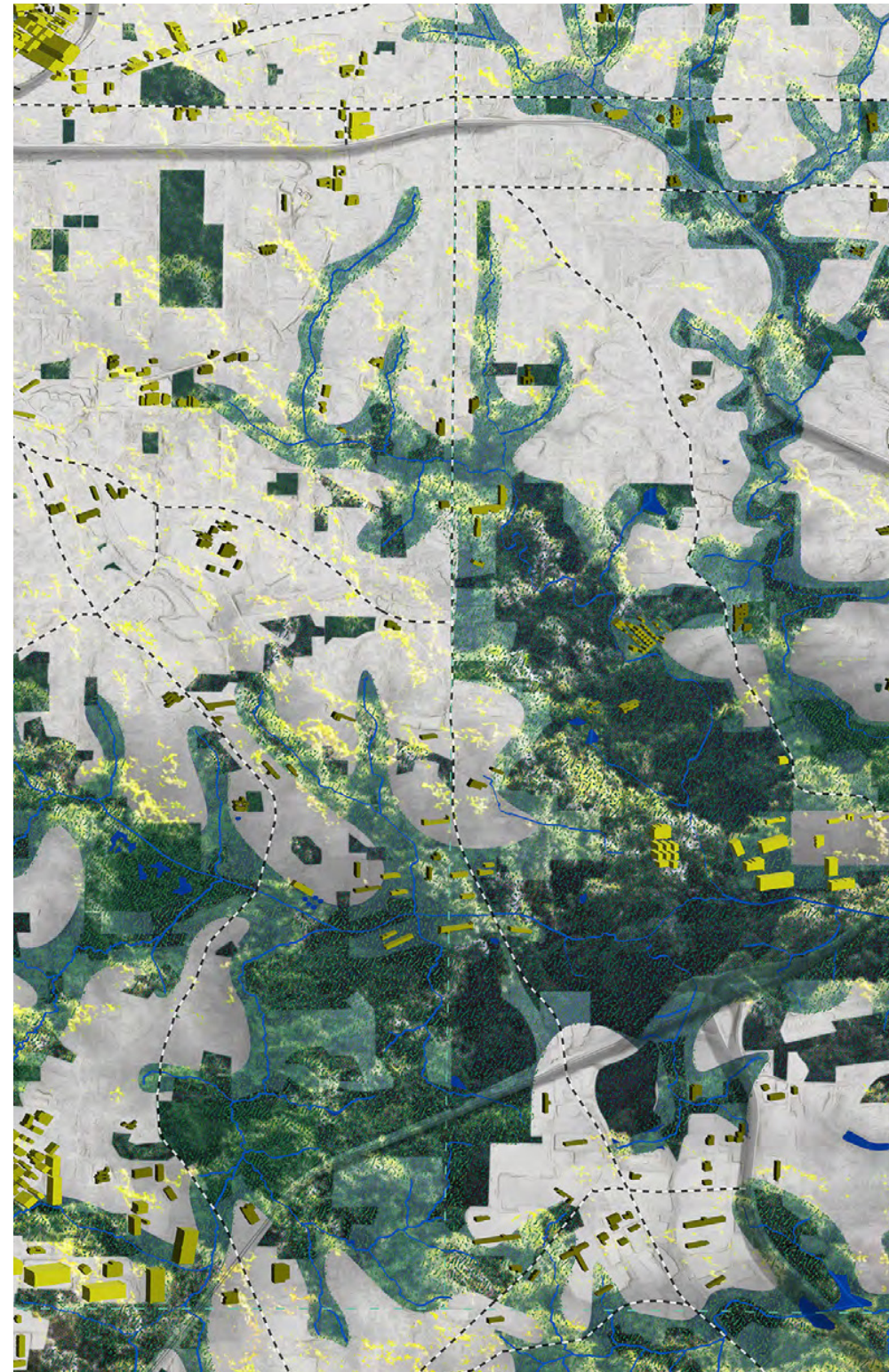
The forest landscape, as it's always been, is embodied. Distinct boundaries between nature and built form are collapsed and legibility is obscured.

The forest transforms from an environment of depletion to an expansive condition, unbound in our radical vision.

Community habitation is reimagined for spaces of intersection through multi-sensory interventions allowing the natural environment to flourish and different agents to care for each other. The shifting landscapes create polytemporal spaces for the curation of life, challenging the linear notions of living and enhancing the cultural multiplicities of every day. In the world after property, we imagine the forest to be the central protagonist with cultural activations that defy the extractive regime of property.

View - Neighbourhood Wetlands after-property

Section - Intrenchment Creek after-property
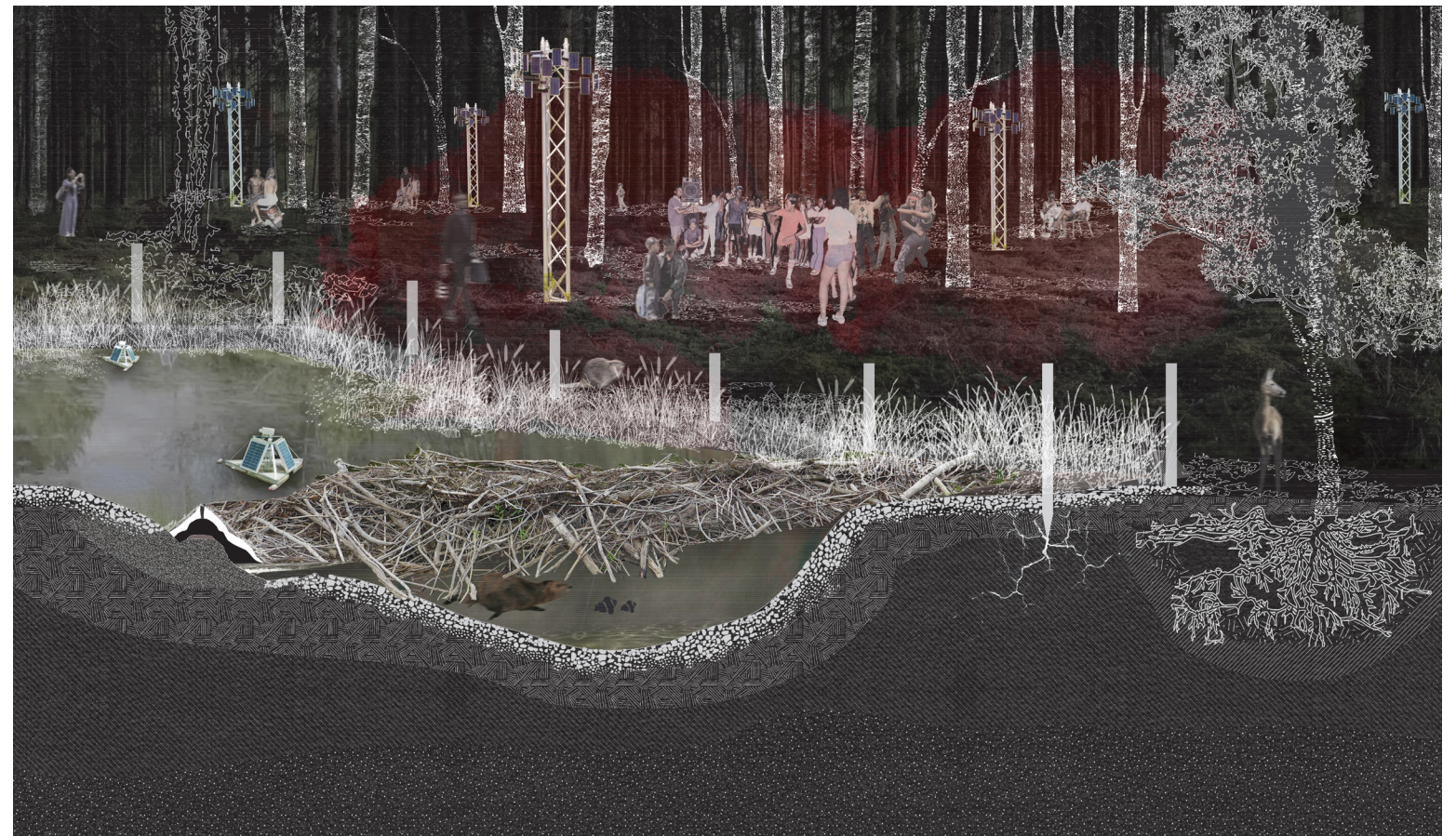
View - Urban Mass after-property

View - Dowtown Atlanta after-property

View - Forest Inhabitation after-property

Section - Gas Station after-property

After-property envisions a society based on kinship amongst human and non- human actors to produce spaces for autonomy, connection, and expression. The forest, reima ined as the wild, becomes a place for the curation of life and production of culture - an expansive, immeasurable condition, and a process that transforms itself into an active agent within the city.

View - Cultural Production after-property

Section - Soundstage after-property

Terranos de Agua

Urban Design Studio III - Spring '23
Water Urbanism: Double Displacement at the Water's Edge

Site
Siloe, Cali, Colombia

Instructors
Kate Orff (Coordinator)
Dilip da Cunha
E. Thaddeus Pawlowski
Geeta Mehta
Adriana Chavez
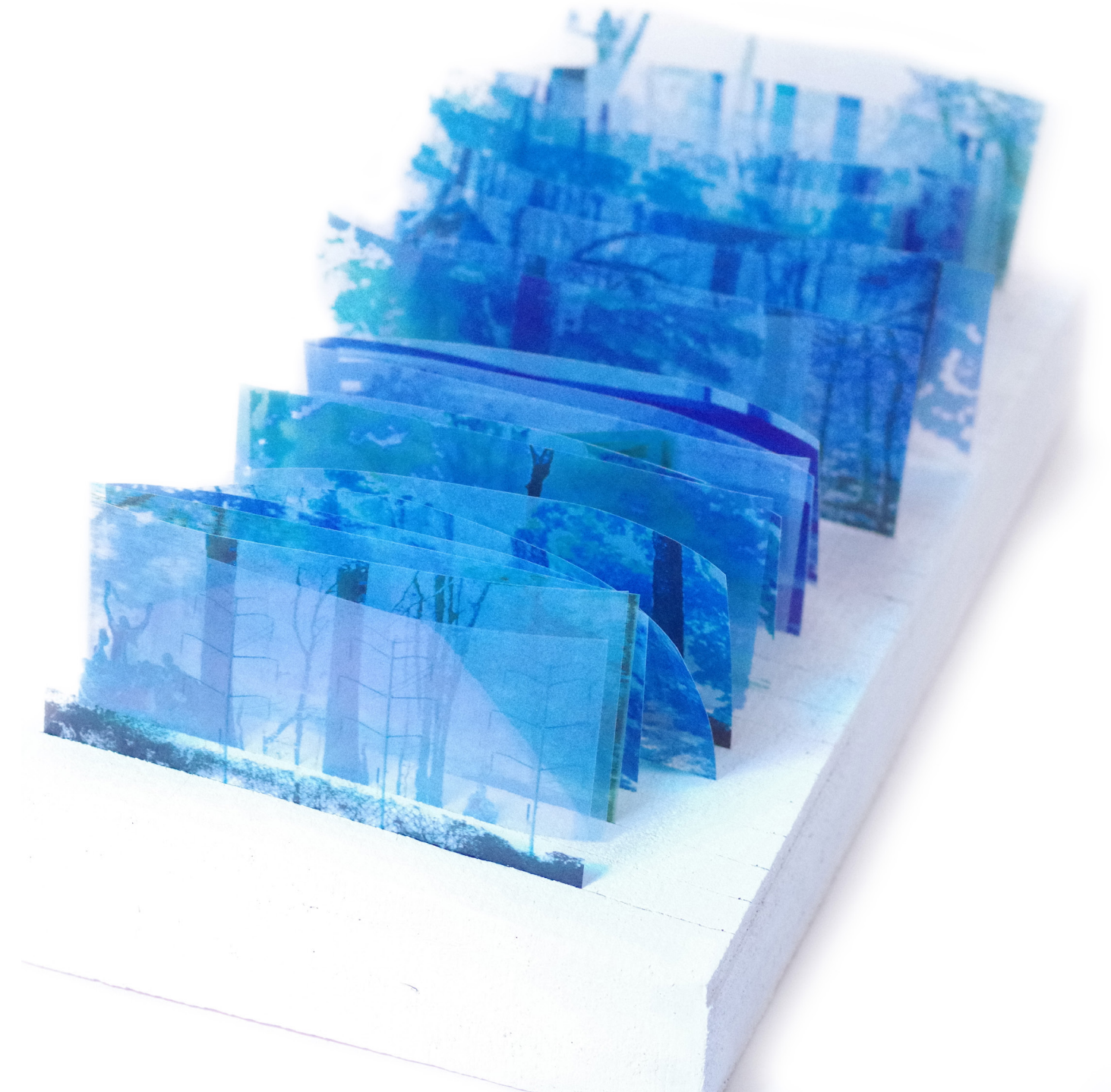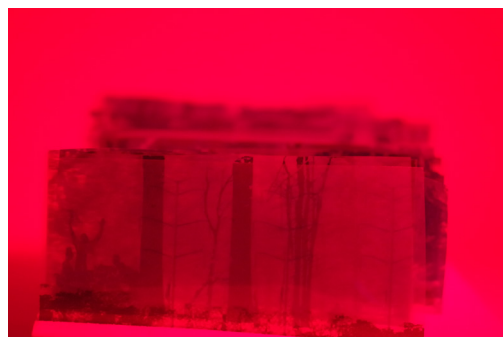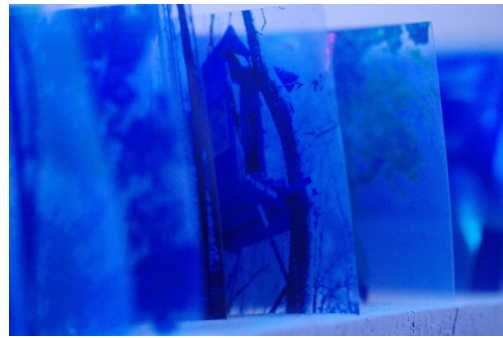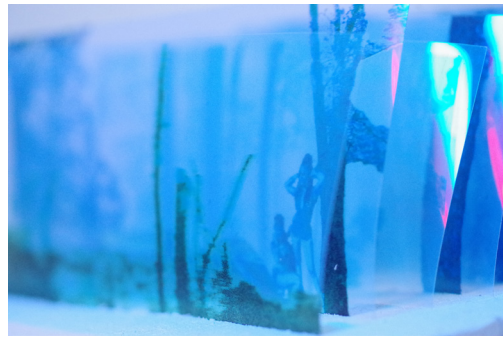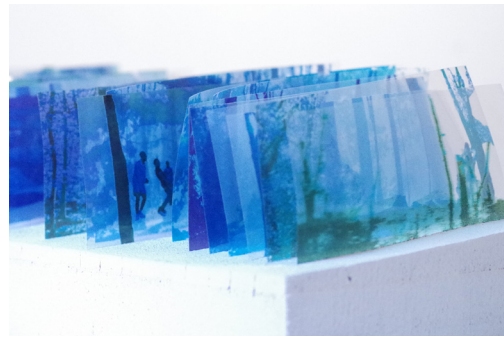Maria Palomares Samper
Cesar Delgado

Team
Anagha Arunkumar
Anchalinad Anuwatnontaket
Vir Shah
Devanshi Pandya

The vibrant life unfolding on the foothills of Cali is deeply stigmatized and associated only with disaster. The design ingenuity of residents, community culture and the ways in which they shape everyday life is written off as vulnerable communities living upon precarious slopes, adding to the pressure of displacement and ecological calamity. We challenge this perspective to acknowledge and celebrate life on the foothills.

Across ecological and social frontiers, our project centers current and future ways of living and moving with water.

Reforestation, large scale upstream water reservoirs and capacity building within the community are our major tools. Over time, policy-protected and incentivised communal stewardship generates a stabilized rewilded landscape for ecological resilience and socio-economic opportunity.

By creating spaces to clean, hold and absorb water throughout the settlement, we regulate ground water. Waste management infrastructure encourages sustainable habits around waste and water. At the frontier between the 'formal' and 'informal', softened landscapes priviledge pedestrian activity to lower social and infrastructural barriers.

The proposal evolves over time to strengthen the eco-hydro-social networks that redefine life in self-constructed settlements across Cali.

Existence of Water in varying degrees and forms across terrains
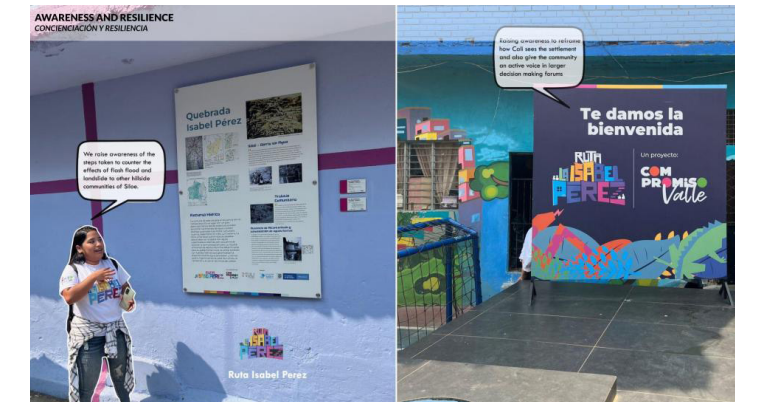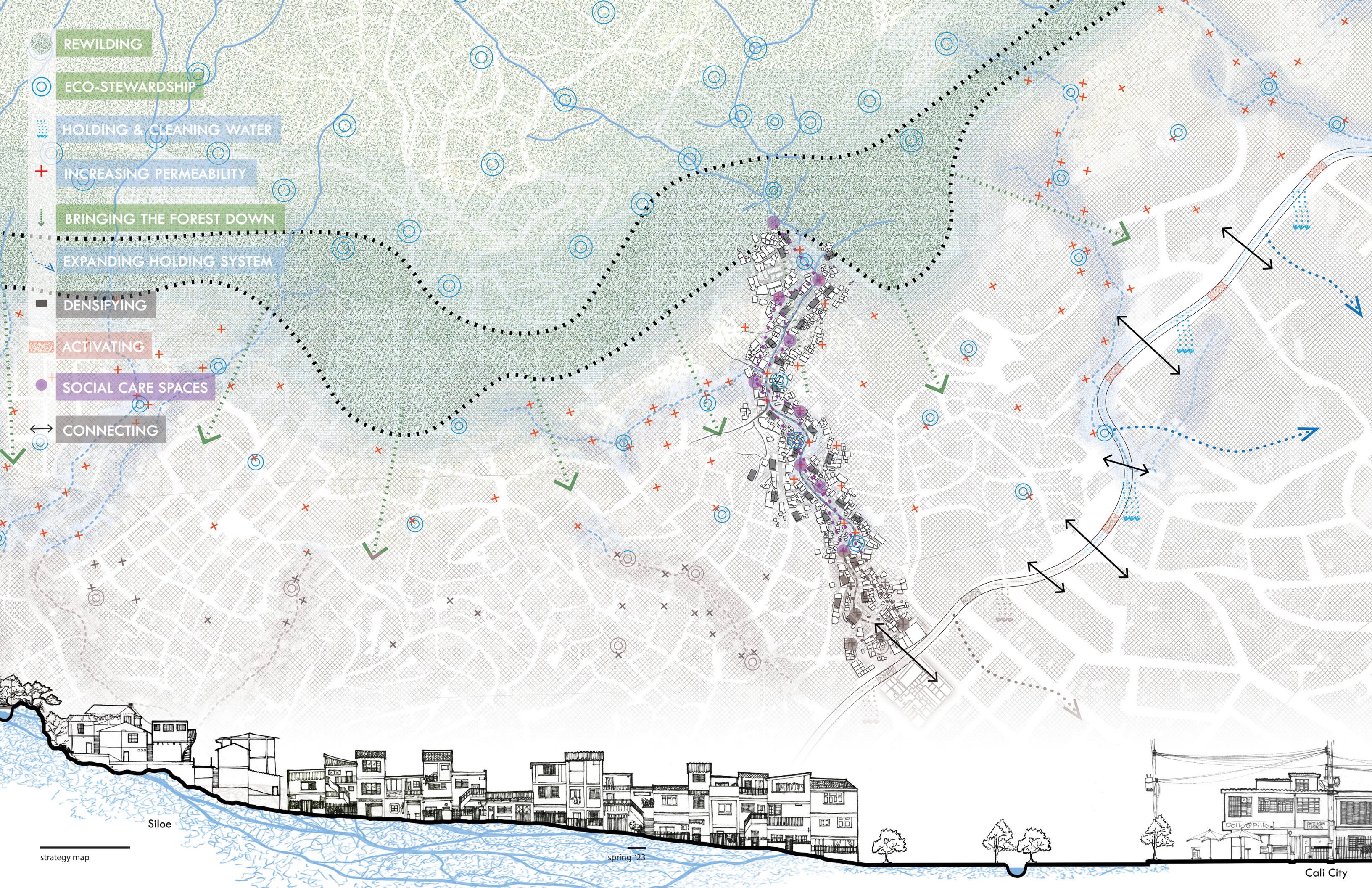
Our proposal identifies and builds upon the existing network of flood response and resilience, in collaboration with inhabitants and other stakeholders.

FOREST

SETTLEMENT

SEAM

REACTING TO THE FLOODS
REACCIÓN A LAS INUNDACIONES

A PROACTIVE COMMUNITY
UNA COMUNIDAD PROACTIVA

REGENERATIVE APPROACHES
ENFOQUES REGENERATIVOS

AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE
CONCIENCACIÓN Y RESILIENCIA

Legend

- **REWILDING**
- **ECO-STEWARDSHIP**
- **HOLDING & CLEANING WATER**
- **INCREASING PERMEABILITY**
- **BRINGING THE FOREST DOWN**
- **EXPANDING HOLDING SYSTEM**
- **DENSIFYING**
- **ACTIVATING**
- **SOCIAL CARE SPACES**
- **CONNECTING**

Siloe

strategy map

spring '23

Cali City

We propose the incentivization of ecological stewardship, through which the community makes efforts towards holding water and reforestation. In tandem, they also use these productive landscapes for regenerative agriculture, thus eventually creating a belt beyond which the settlement will not sprawl.

View - Cultural Production after-property
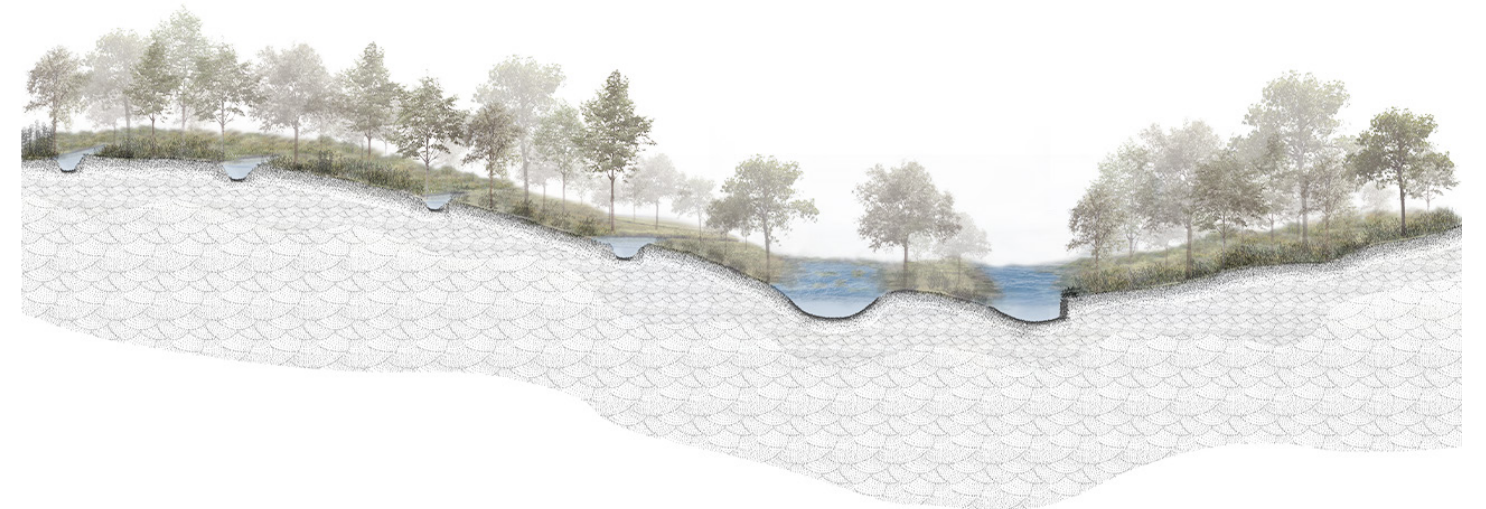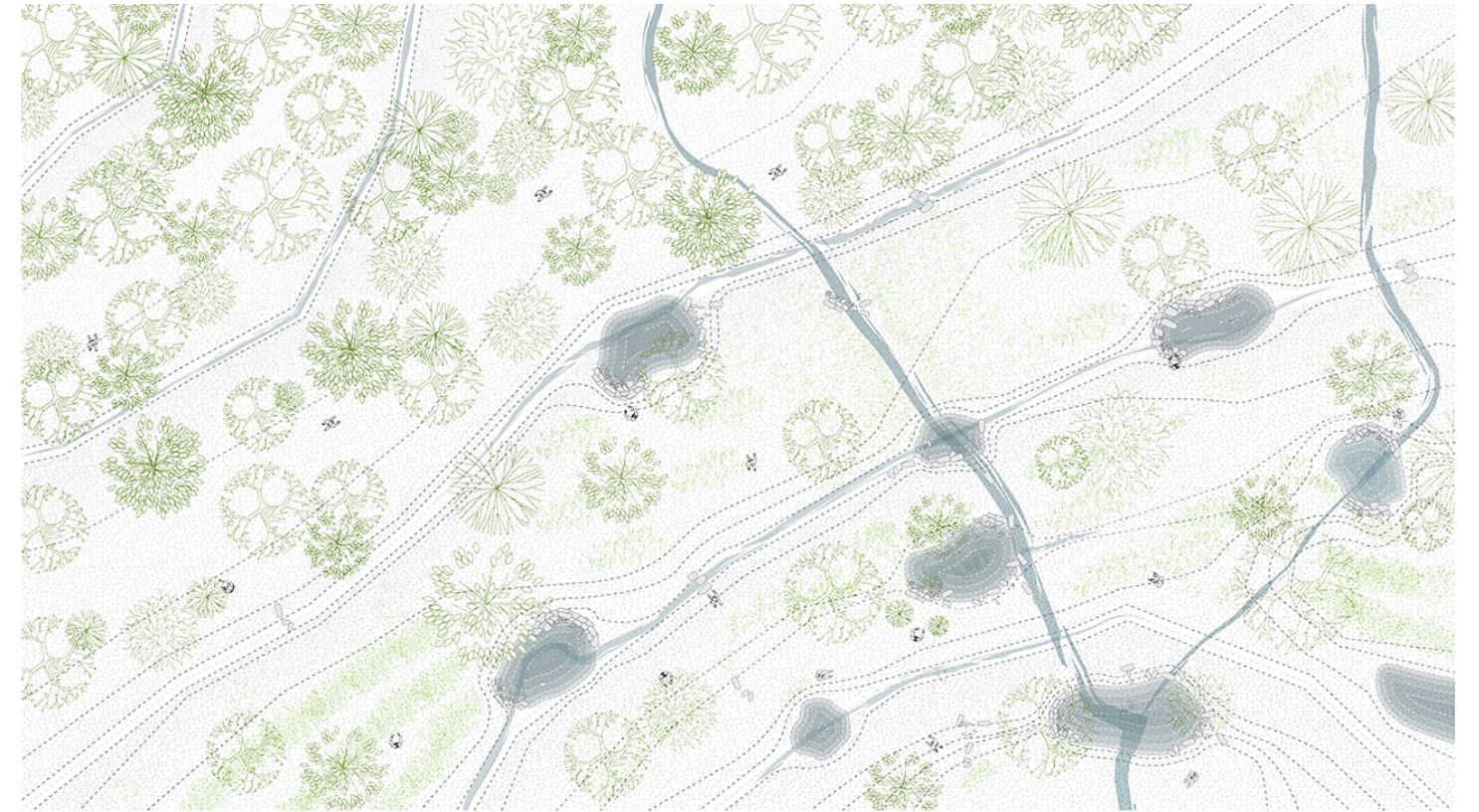
View - Cultural Production after-property

View - Cultural Production after-property

Moving into the dense hillside settlement, we propose the creation of green pockets to consolidate the terrain. Through a series of softening operations, water is absorbed in some instances and surfaced at others.

Strategic densification of physical infrastructure then allows for a well integrated network of social care and resilience

At the seam between the hillside settlement and formal city, we privilege pedestrian activity over vehicular movement to activate and integrate social fabrics. By expanding the canals and increasing surface permeability, we allow water to soak through rather than move above ground.

View - Cultural Production after-property

CHANGING GROUNDS
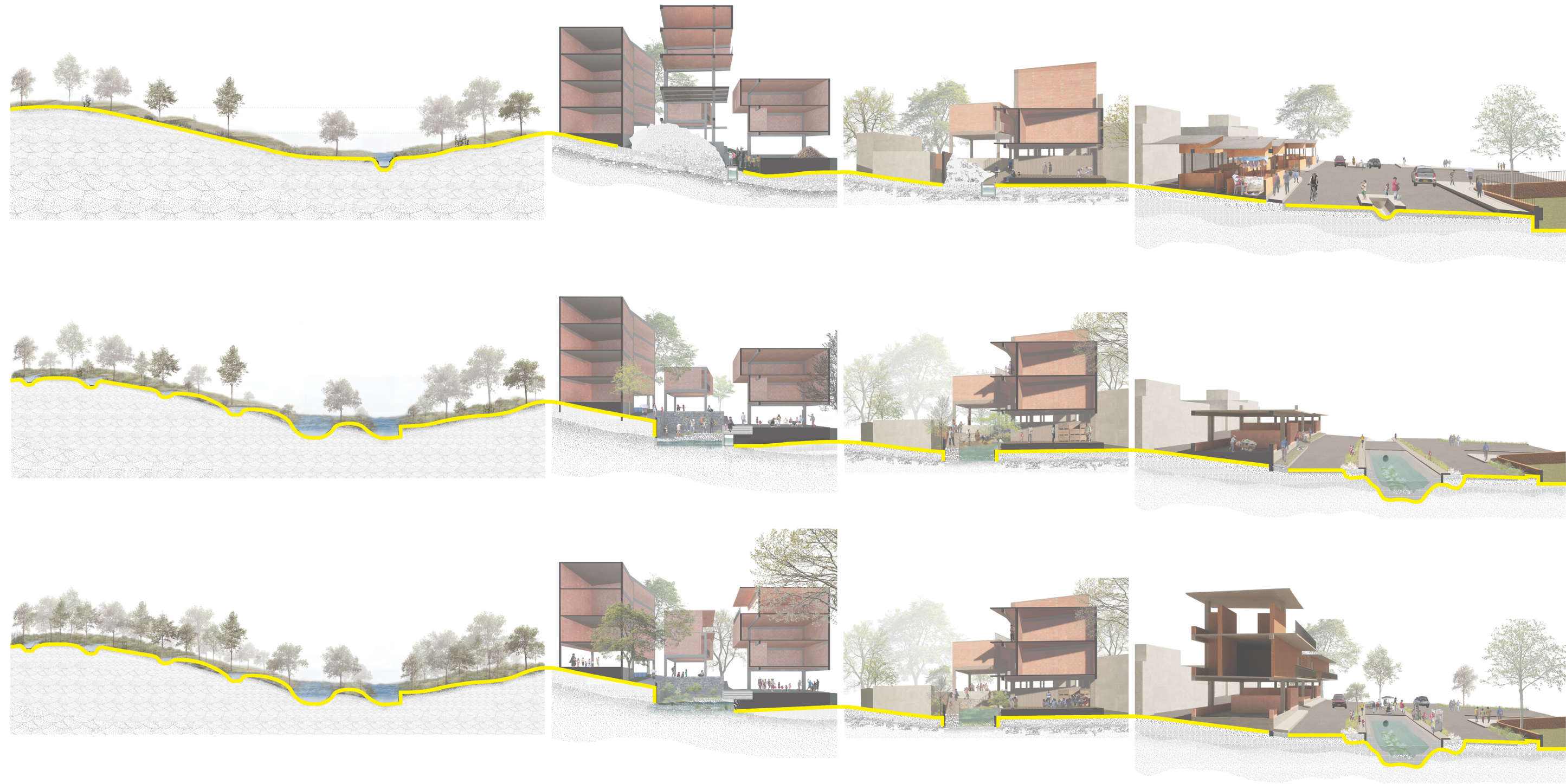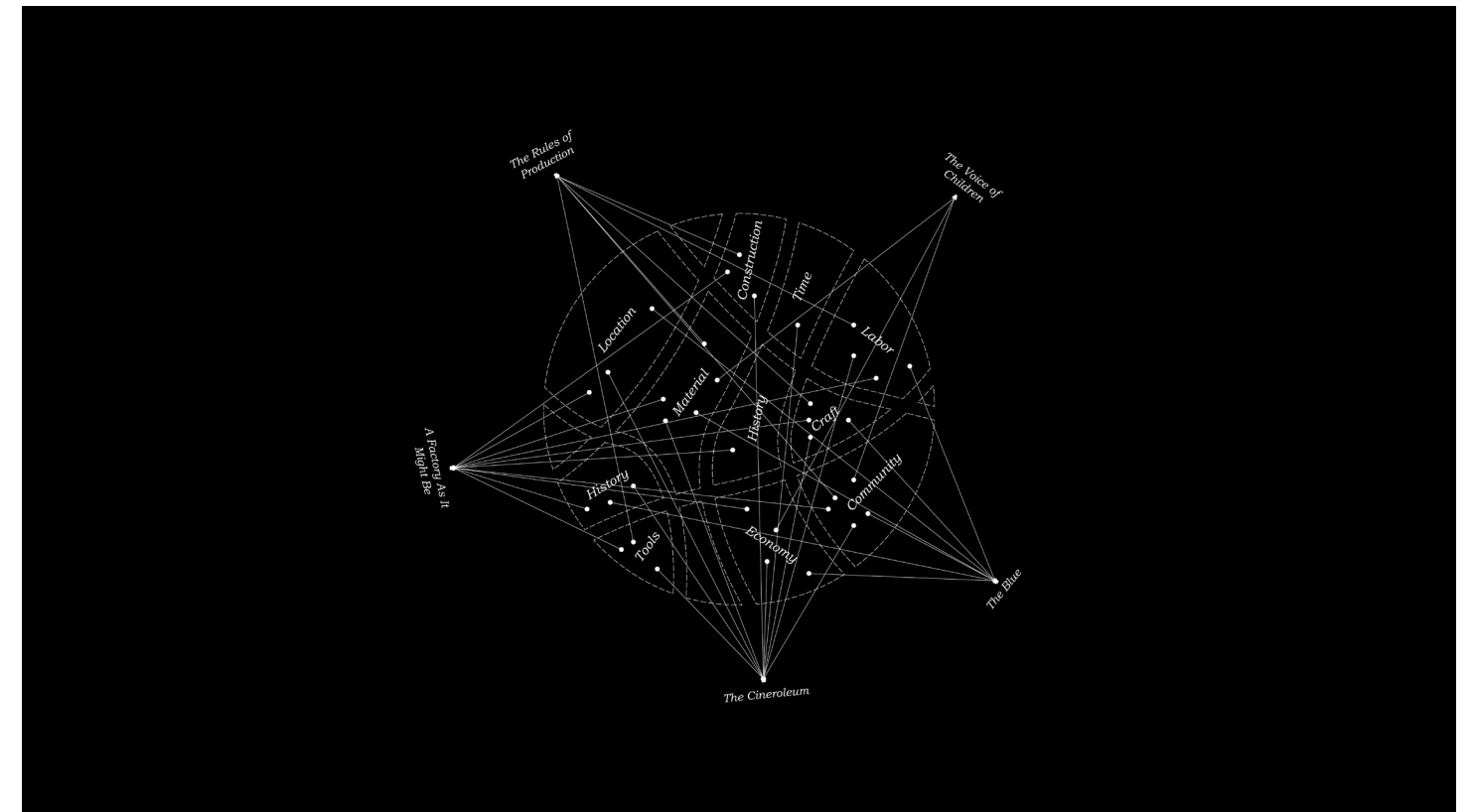
'Fragment' a part of...

Immeasurable Sites - Spring '23
Measuring/Travelling

Practice
Imani Jacqueline Brown - Assemble Studio

Instructor
Emanuel Admassu

Team
Lealla Solomon
Vir Shah

Imani Jacqueline Brown - practice value system diagram

What methods of spatial valuation undergird the disciplines of architec- ture and urban design? How are these systems of measur ment entangled with discursive and materi- al regimes of racialization, ecological degradation, and coloniality? This course considers sites and practices that travel beyond disciplinary rubrics of measurement. We will examine tactics of opacity, occlusion, and abstraction, in the visual and conceptual arts; paying special attention to nonwestern concepts and sites that are illegible to the eth- nographic gaze. Thinking and working against epistemolo- gies of measurement, cla sification, and bordering, requires developing transdisciplinary knowledge of black studies, decoloniality, contemporary art, and cultural geography. Each week's readings will be split in half between practices of measurement that have been central to the discipline of architecture and extra-disciplinary concepts of immeasur- ability.

Assemble Studio - practice value system diagram
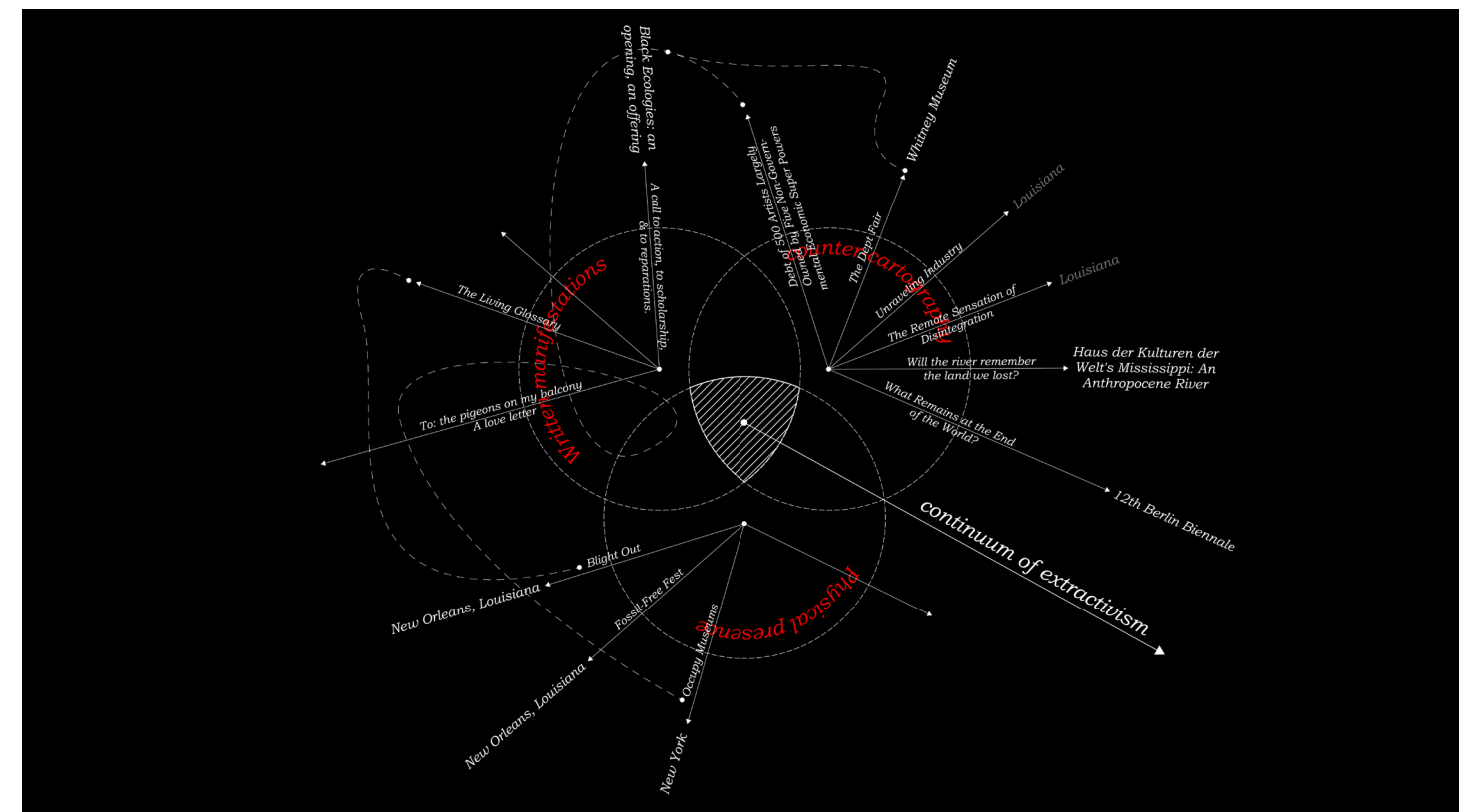
A name that is a manifestation of what we are doing, taking FRAGMENTs out of knowledge, our experiences, and building together a value system which in itself is composed out
of parts.

V: FRAGMEN T is always part of a collective,

L: it is a part of a Home,

V: Cultures,

L: Disciplines,

V: Methodologies

L: and Ecologies

V: It connects and disconnects from various practices, thus having an ephemeral base, where movement is the only constant.

L: Flip humbleness We are always incomplete in a way, we never work alone. In it, we practice humbleness and generosity. To practice this our methodology intends to deal with the present.

V: While focusing on it, we imagine reconstituting the past to rearticulate the present, and not to dream of megalomaniac futuristic structures. Blinda Kazeem Kaminski refers to this rearticulation, which must be done carefully, to not repeat violence show her practices. We will use this methodology. Imani uses the craft of abundant citation images of citations to bring history and narratives to reframe the present; she ties the present to generosity.

L: Lastly, we believe in not having a structured approach Flip locality in the practice, but rather practicing subjectivity in context. This is very much relevant to Assemble which uses the forces within local communities. Eradicating Foucault's 'order of things' in order to be able to notice the monsters, and the devalued in each space.

V: We view this methodology as an ever going process. A manifestation and continuous practice in which we now extracted four values in our shared performance.....it is a fragment of our practice, as a
symbol always evolving.

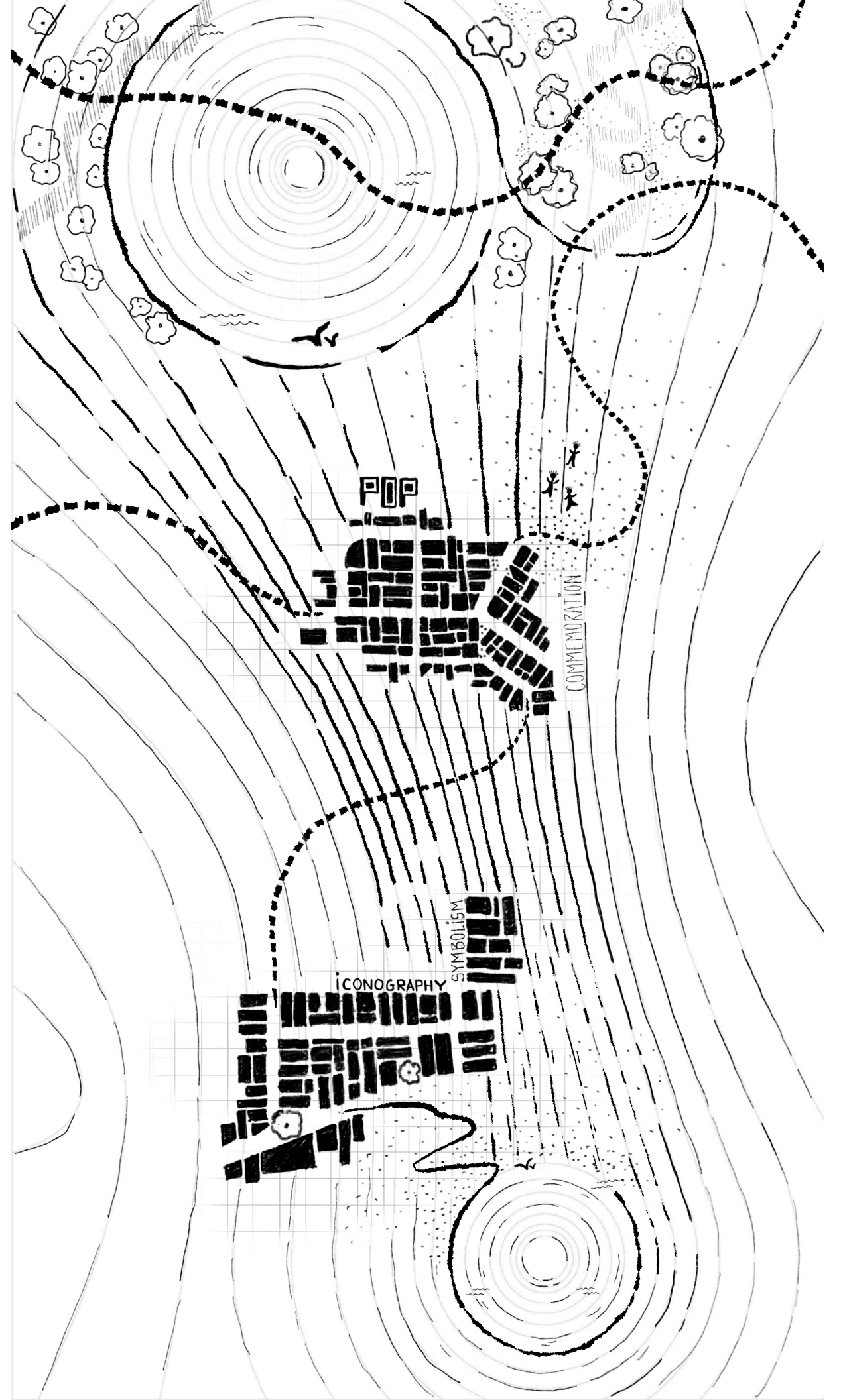# DERIVE getting lost in the New York City

Urban Design Studio I - Summer '22
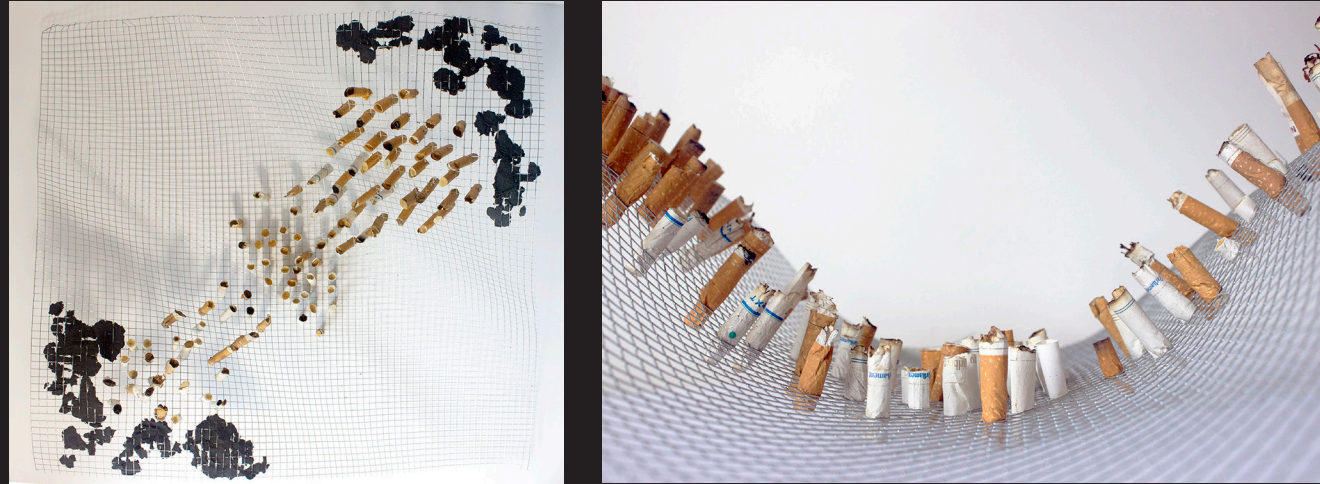
an exercise that involved mapping and modeling
from your own experience of the place

POP

COMMEMORATION

SYMBOLISM

ICONOGRAPHY

fin.