

**URBAN DESIGN**

**COMMUNITIES**

ECOSYSTEMS

**RESILIENCE**

NETWORKS

**PEOPLE**

**PORTFOLIO**

SELECTED WORKS

**AVANI AGARWAL**

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Water Urbanism | Spring 2022

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Atlanta after Property | Fall 2021

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# REWILDING CAYE CAULKER

Resiliency through Knowledge Generation,  
Conservation & Scientific Tourism

Belize & Yucatan | Spring 2022

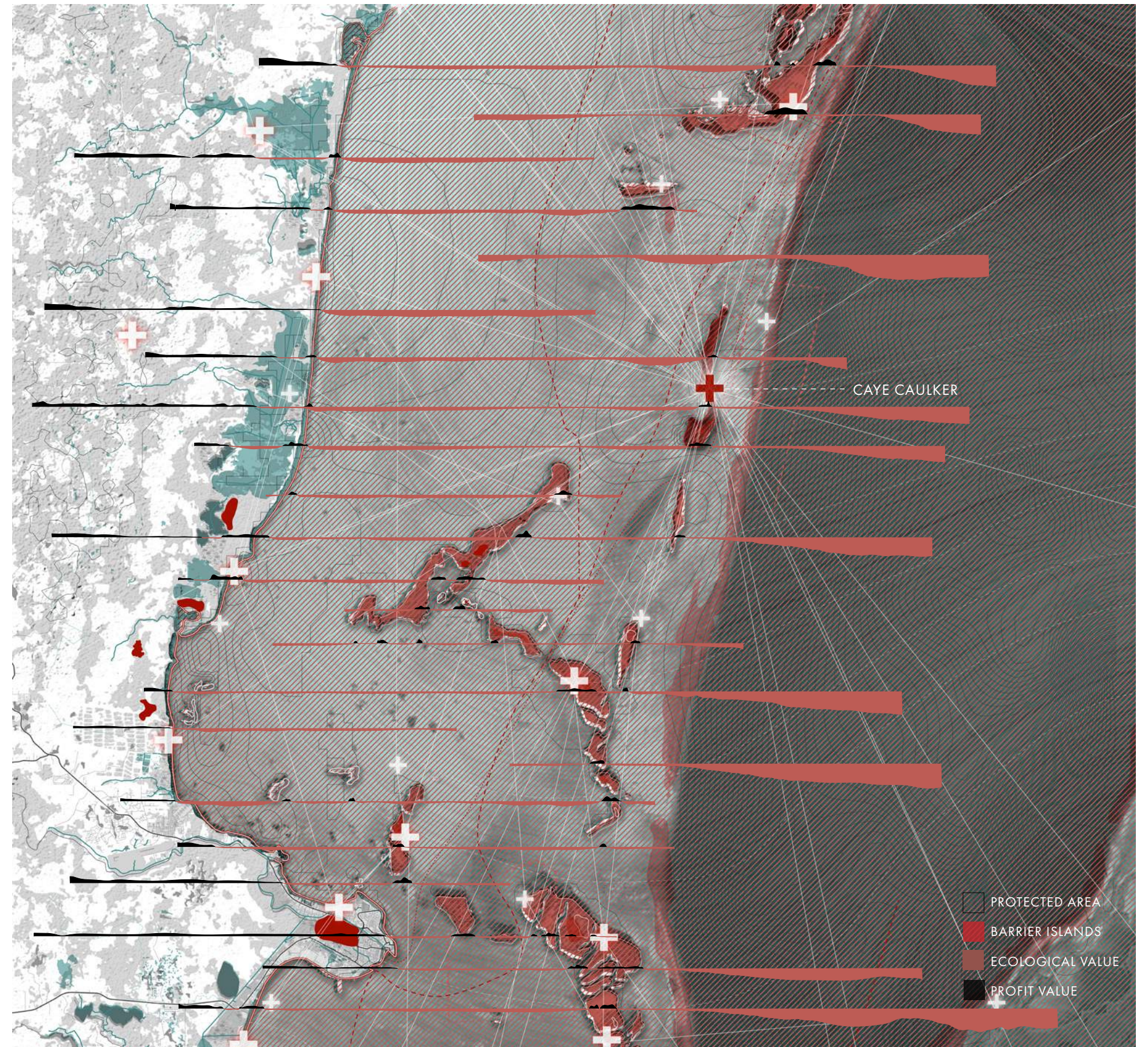
with Lamisa Haque, Rhea Pai & Riya Chadha

Critics | Kate Orff, Geeta Mehta, Thad Pawlowski, Lorena Bello Gomez, Adriana Chavez

What if urbanization patterns took a landscape based approach instead of the extractive land based approach prevalent today?

Caye Caulker is among the collection of barrier islands that shelter and protect Mexico and Belize from wind, waves, and hurricanes. However, extractive tourism and speculative real estate development have damaged this critical infrastructure. By creating a **National Park Alliance**, Caye Caulker can become a model for **redefining protected areas**. By dissolving arbitrary borders value is redefined through ecosystem services with long-term landscape first strategies.

This framework of knowledge production, conservation, and scientific tourism increases civic engagement and **empowers the local community** to protect the Barrier Islands as critical infrastructure - **restoring and rewilding** the inherent ecological balance. By recalibrating our understanding of value, we build on and **amplify synergies across ecology, economy, and culture**.



Reprogrammed with research and conservation using the model of scientific tourism where visitors learn alongside local stewards



DATA COLLECTION

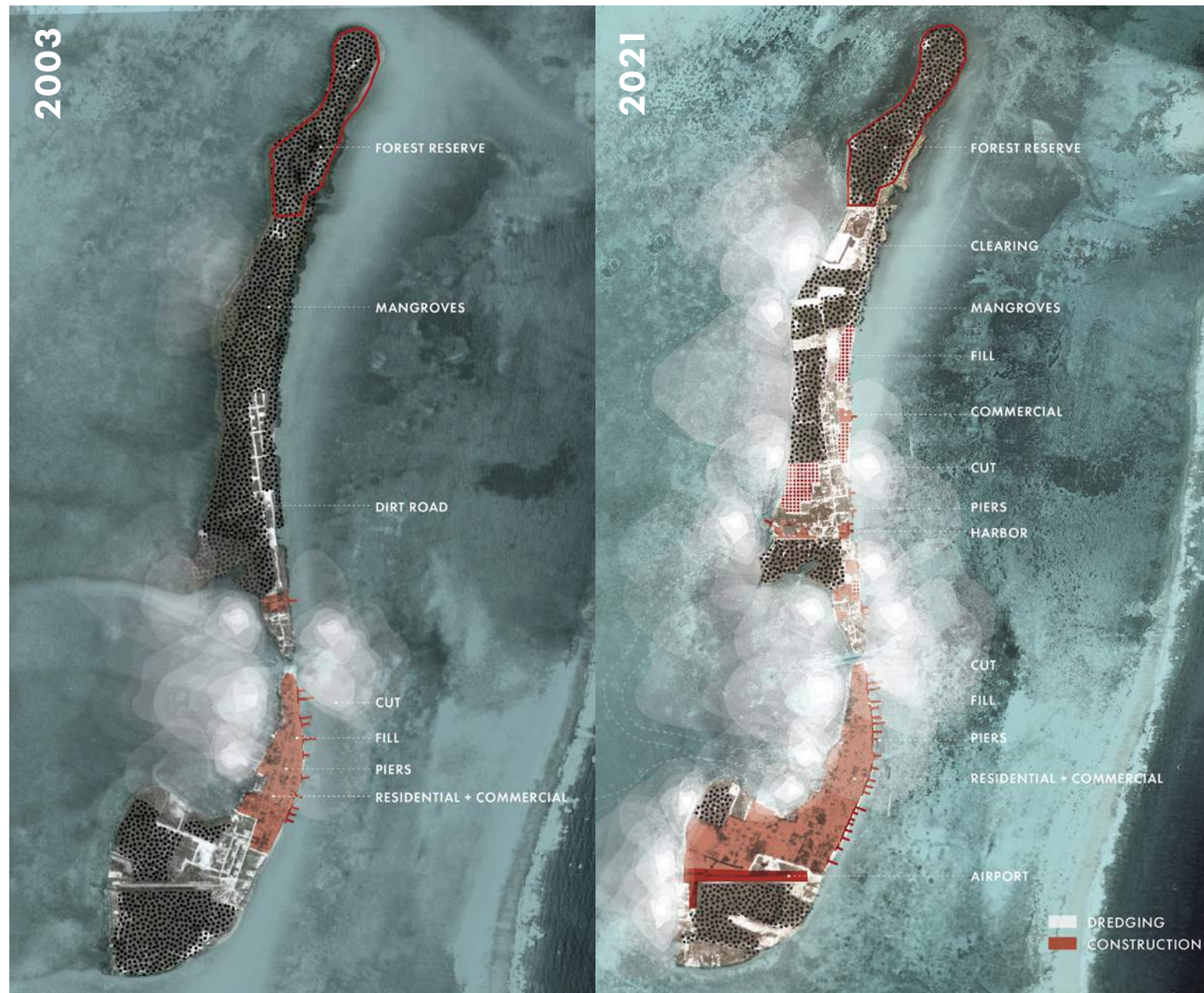
MANGROVE NURSERY

COMMUNITY REPLANTING

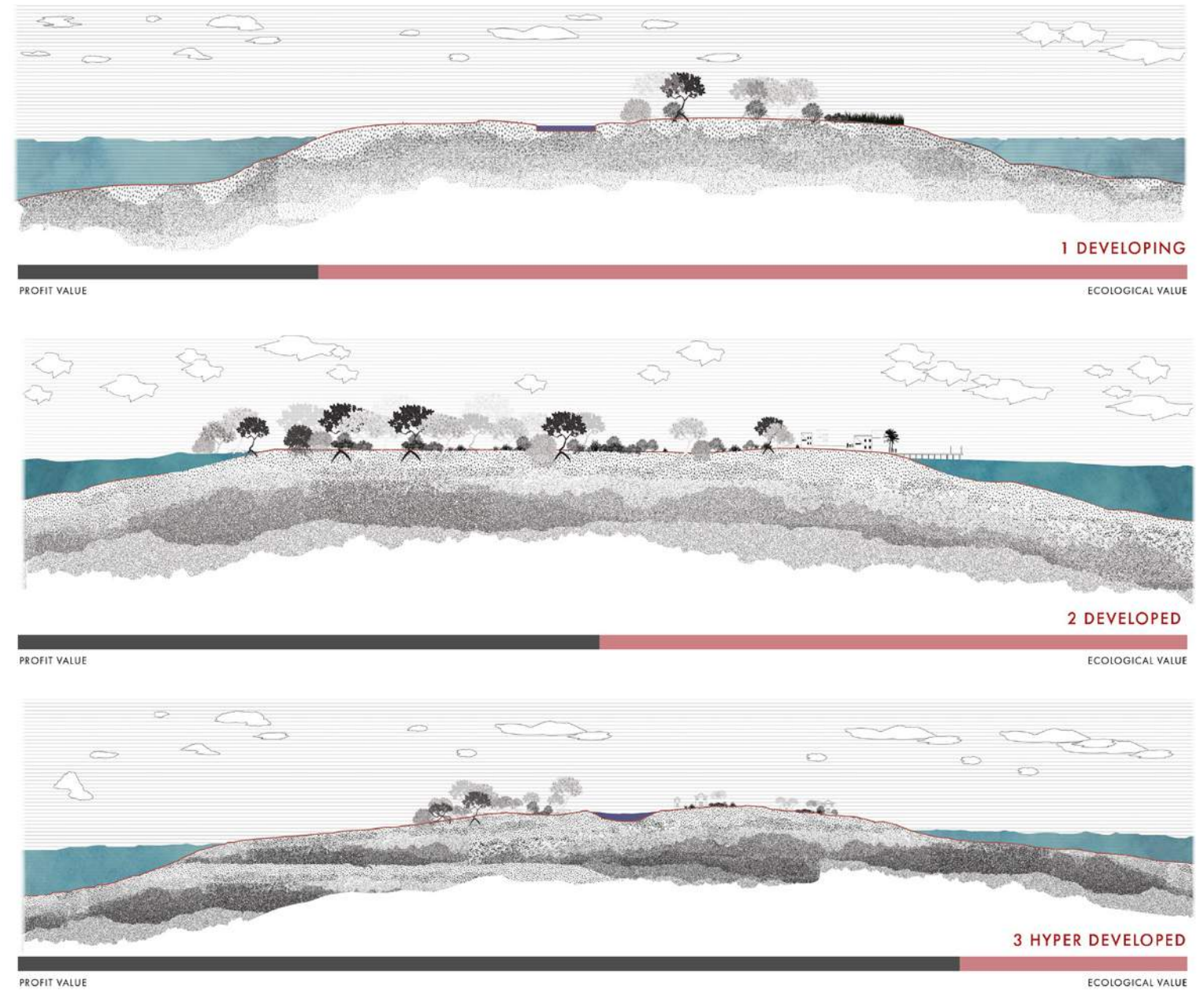
MANGROVE MODULE

MANGROVE RESTORATION  
Mangroves provide valuable fish & wildlife habitat, and reduce shoreline erosion.  
DO NOT TRIM OR CUT

DO NOT DISTURB

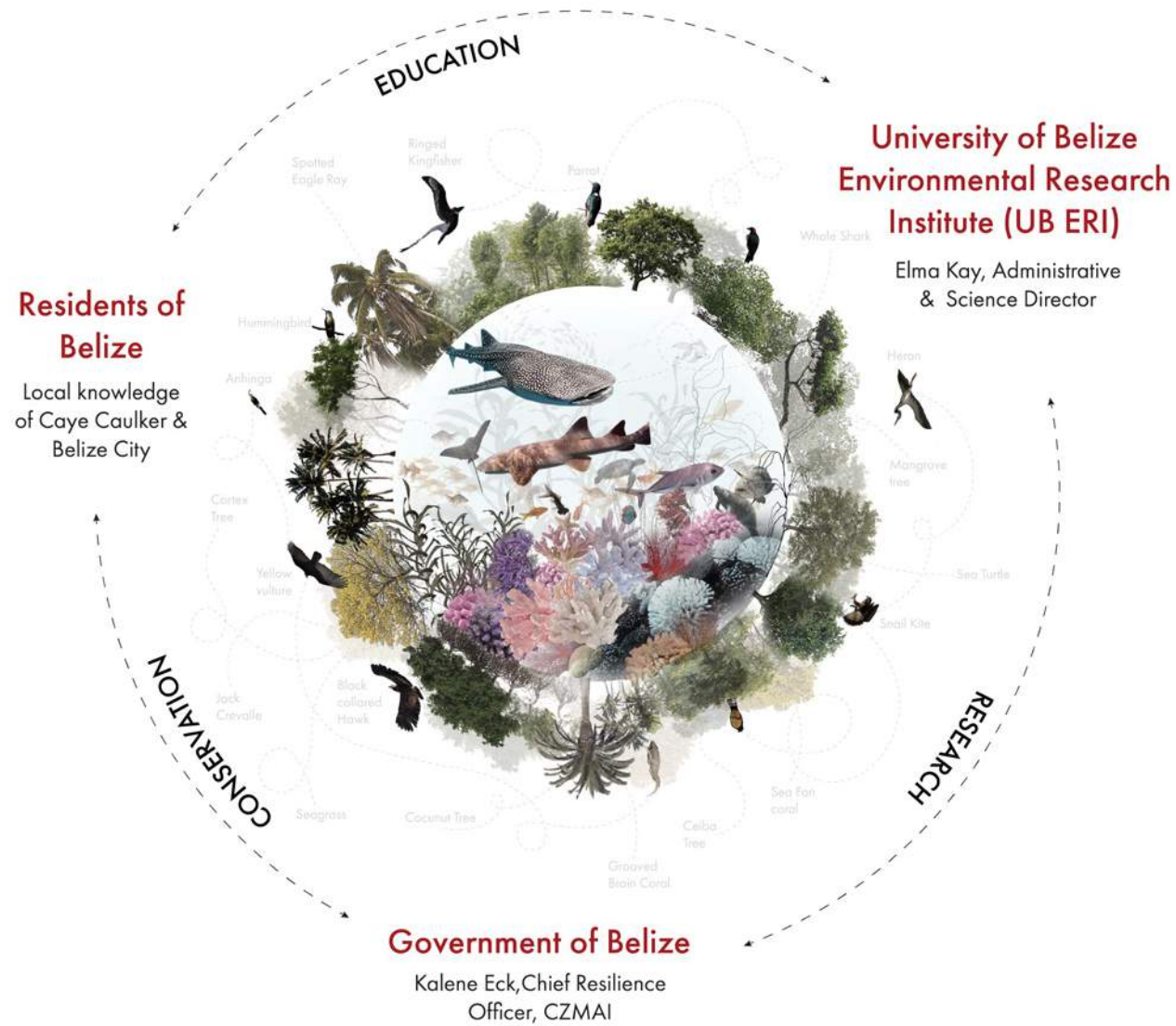


Rapid developer driven urbanization has caused the clearing of mangroves, excessive dredging, and coral bleaching which have disrupted natural ecological systems. As you move south to north, The profit value takes over the ecological value as more man-made interventions show up in the landscape.



**01** SELF-DEVOURING GROWTH OF ISLAND

**02** DEGREES OF DEVELOPMENT

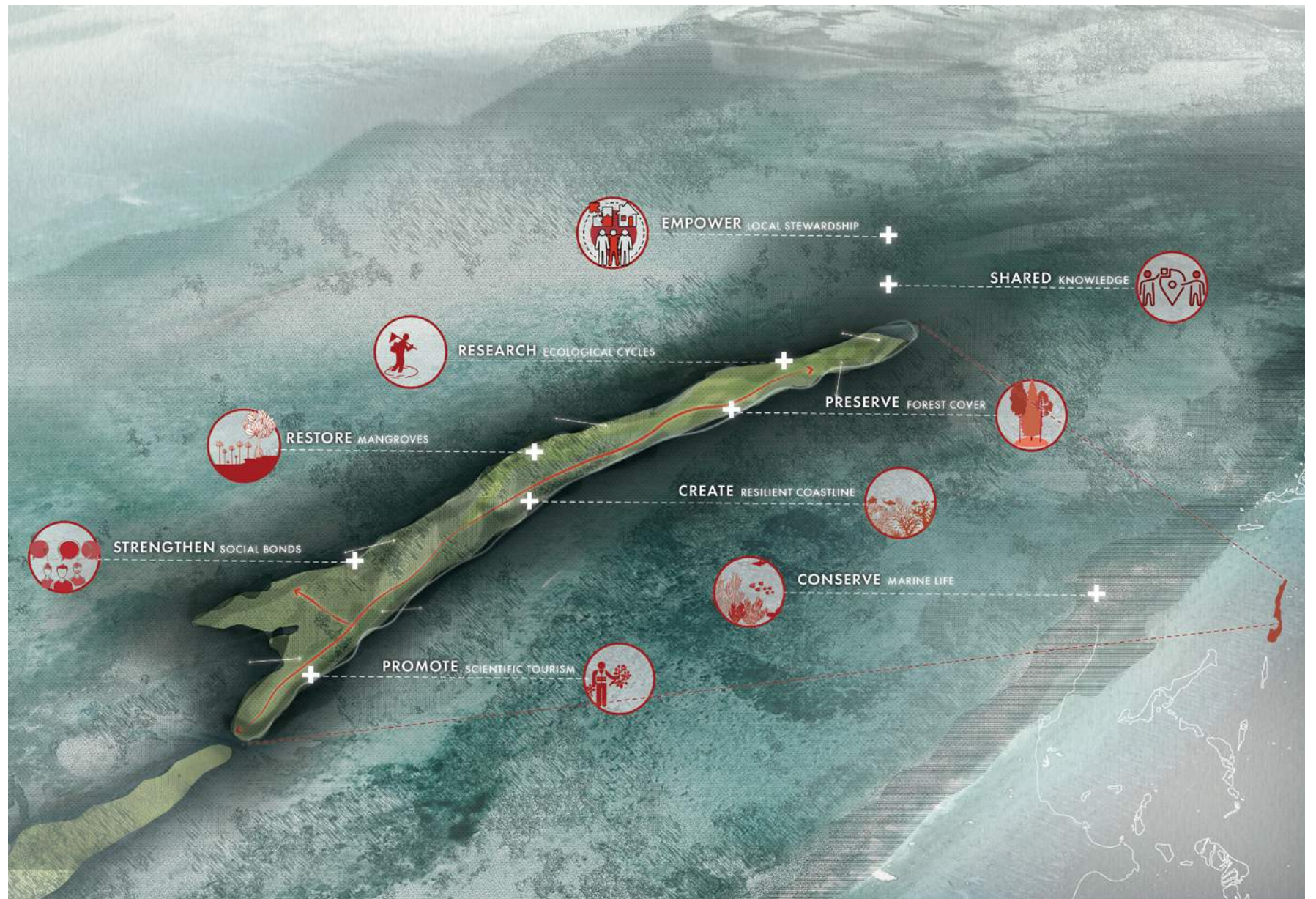


**A NATIONAL PARK for CARIBBEAN COASTAL RESEARCH**

- + KNOWLEDGE GENERATION
- + CONSERVATION
- + SCIENTIFIC TOURISM

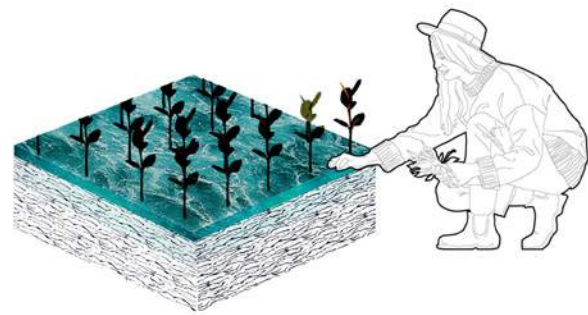
**BARRIER ISLAND ALLIANCE**

Centering the unique biodiversity found in Belize, the Barrier Island Alliance combines local indigenous knowledge with global resources

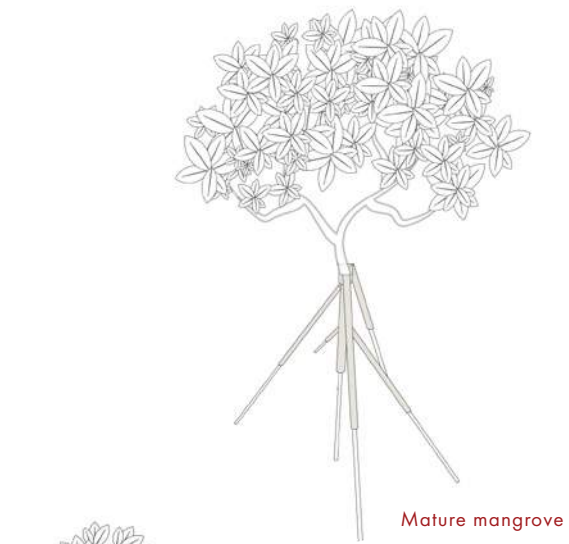


# MANGROVE as a UNIT of CHANGE

As a measure of change, mangroves play a vital role in the ecology, sustainability and security of coastal communities. The fundamental module develops along the growth of the tree over time integrating conservation and research.



MANGROVE NURSERY



Mature mangrove



4-7 years



1-2 years



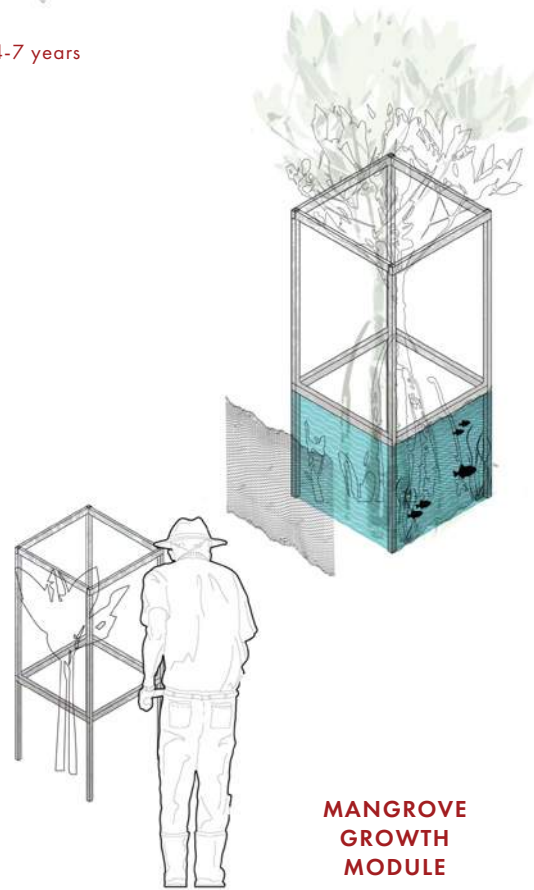
3-4 months



1-2 weeks

- Riley tube
- Propagule
- Reef ball

MANGROVE PLANTER



MANGROVE GROWTH MODULE



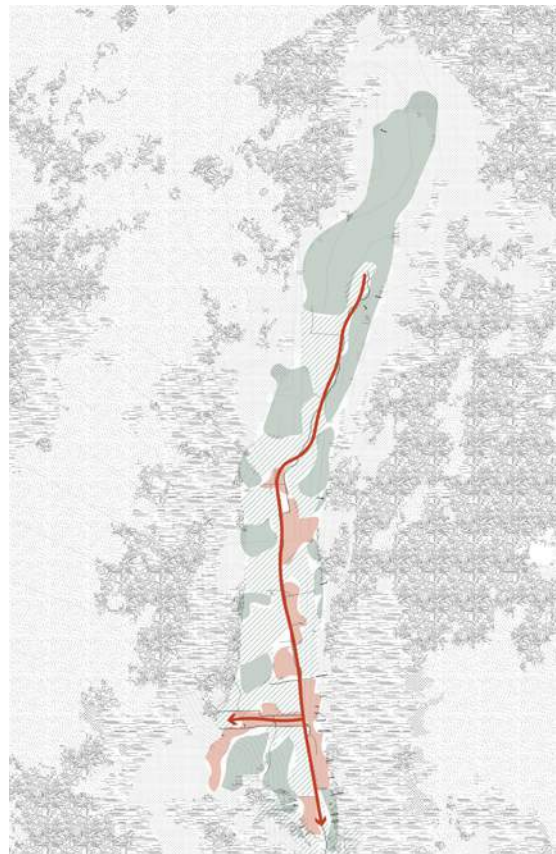
2022



2080+

## LANDSCAPE OF TRANSITION

The new settlement is clustered around existing infrastructure. Scattering research outposts and monitoring stations on the island and along the water to generate knowledge with the aim to rewild the area.



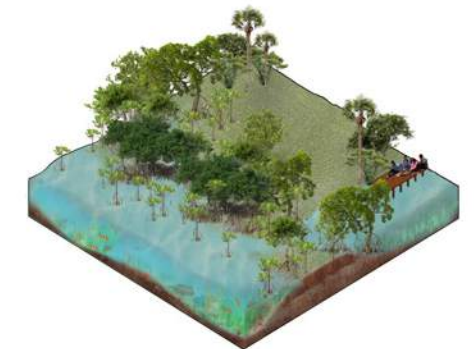
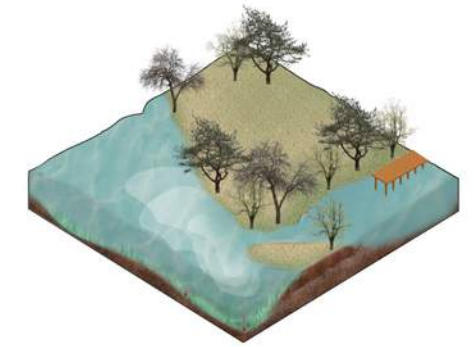
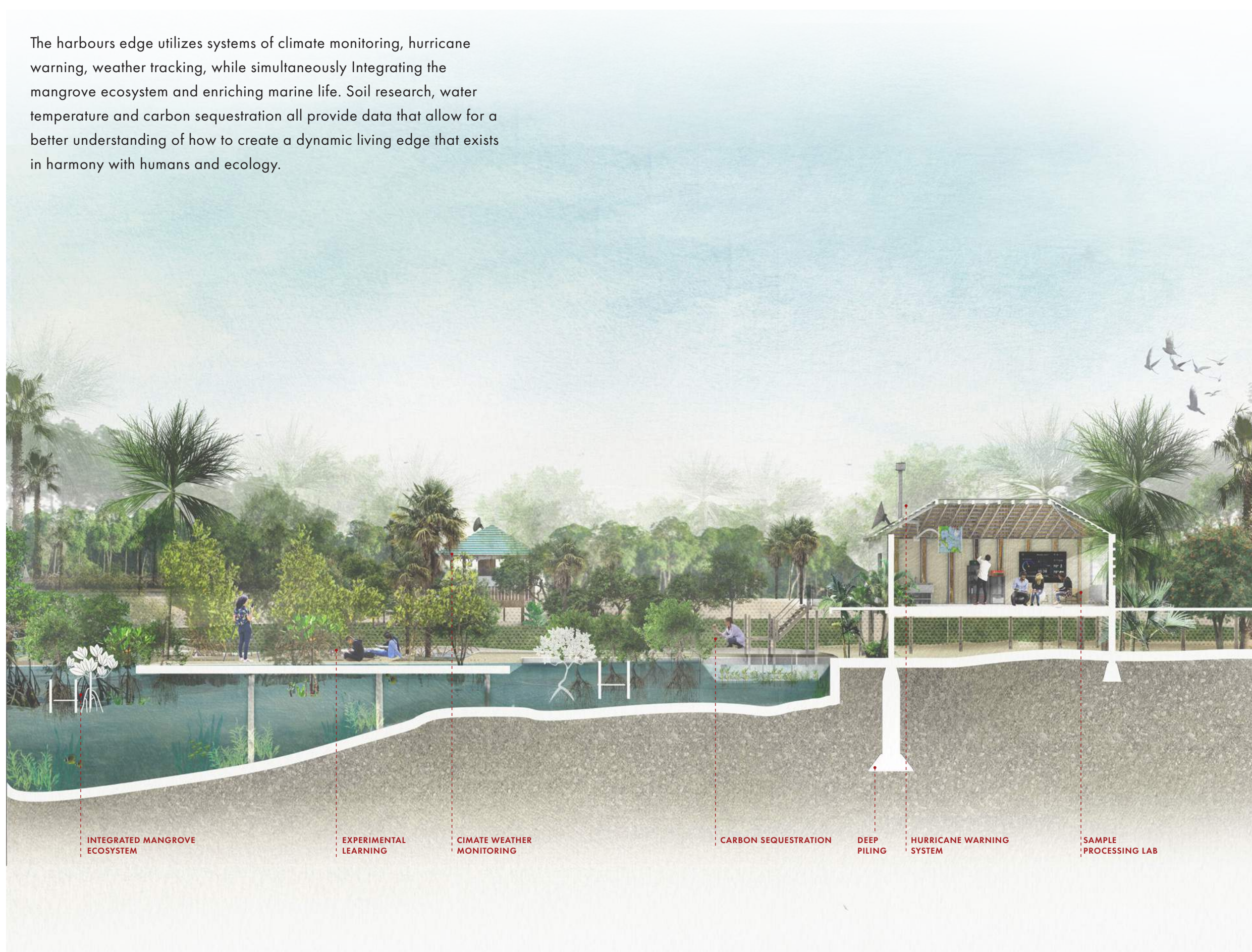
- 01 PATH OF LEAST DISTURBANCE
- 02 RIDGE TO REEF CONNECTION



02



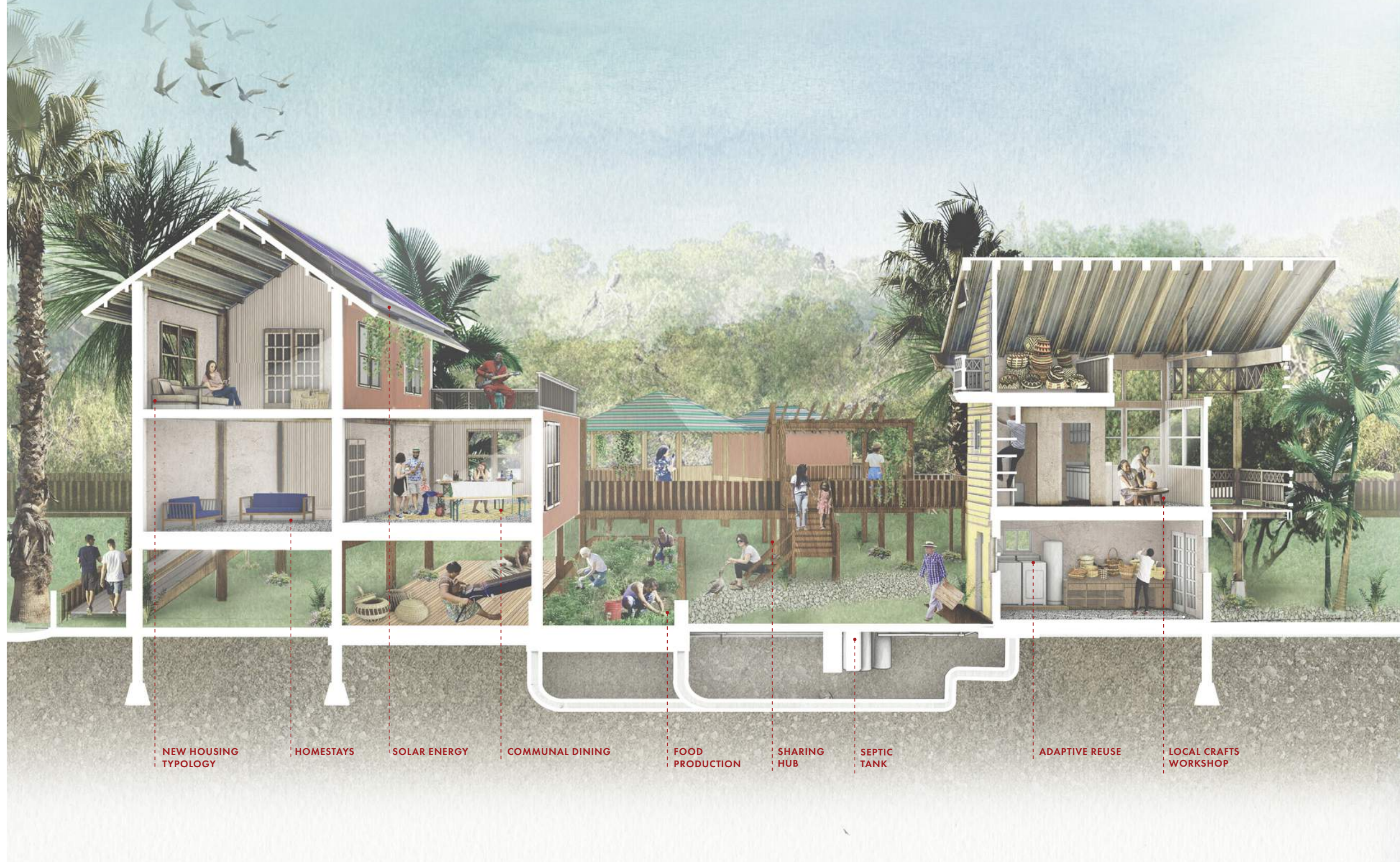
The harbours edge utilizes systems of climate monitoring, hurricane warning, weather tracking, while simultaneously Integrating the mangrove ecosystem and enriching marine life. Soil research, water temperature and carbon sequestration all provide data that allow for a better understanding of how to create a dynamic living edge that exists in harmony with humans and ecology.



MANGROVE RESTORATION

+RESILIENCY

Tools of community science are used to increase civic engagement and strengthen social bonds and empower the local community. Integrating into the existing systems, the new residential clusters allow for communal living, local food production and handicrafts. Homestays are established allowing the tourists to immerse themselves within the local culture.



NEW HOUSING  
TYPOLOGY

HOMESTAYS

SOLAR ENERGY

COMMUNAL DINING

FOOD  
PRODUCTION

SHARING  
HUB

SEPTIC  
TANK

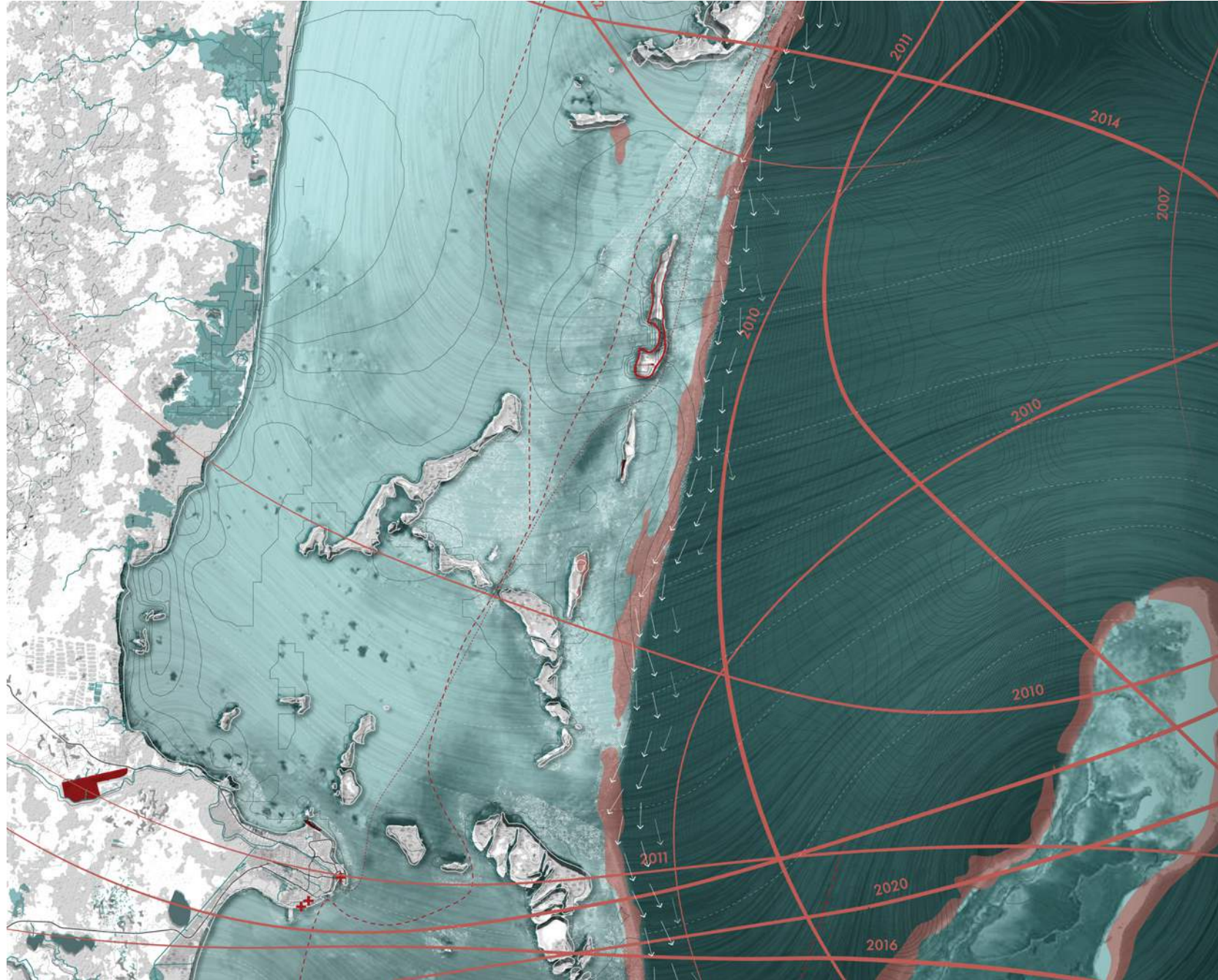
ADAPTIVE REUSE

LOCAL CRAFTS  
WORKSHOP



ADAPT - IN - PLACE

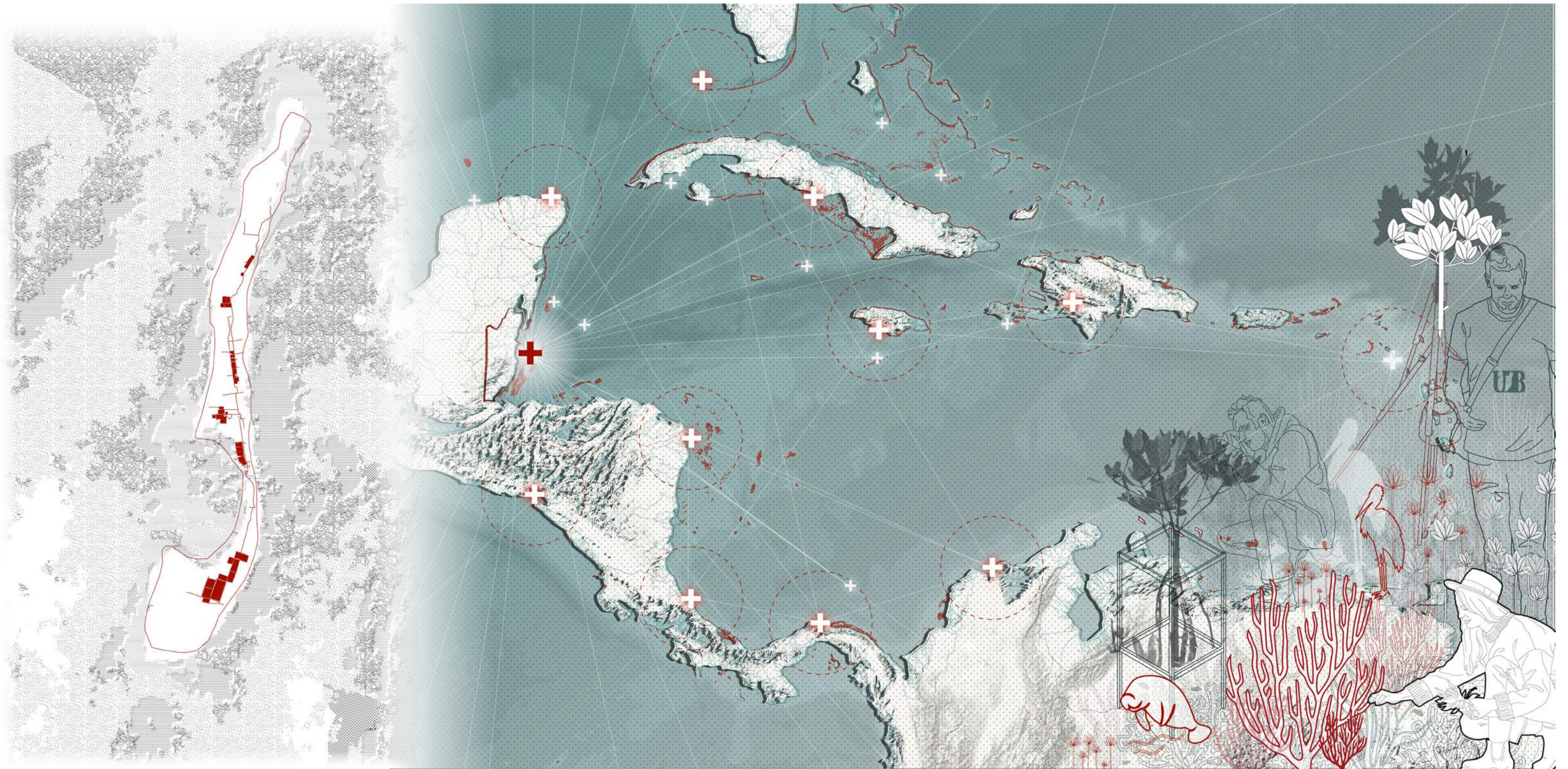
+RESILIENCY



The barrier islands protect the mainland from hurricanes. Coral restoration and conservation practices can in turn protect the barrier islands from damage.

- 01** HURRICANE BARRIERS
- 02** LIVING WITH NATURE
- 03** CORAL HOSPITAL + RESEARCH CENTER





Using this framework from Caye Caulker, this series of islands is envisioned as a **chain of interconnected national park lands** that restore and redefine the social, economic, political, and ecological balance throughout the Caribbean

The economy of knowledge generation and experiential learning restores the delicate mosaic of interconnection between humans and ecology



TRAINING

MONITORING STATION

CORAL WATCH

INFORMATION HUB

MANGROVE RESTORATION POND

APPLIED LEARNING

← VISITOR CENTRE

UB

# REDEFINING VALUE

based on

“Novel and History, Plot and Plantation” by Sylvia Wynter

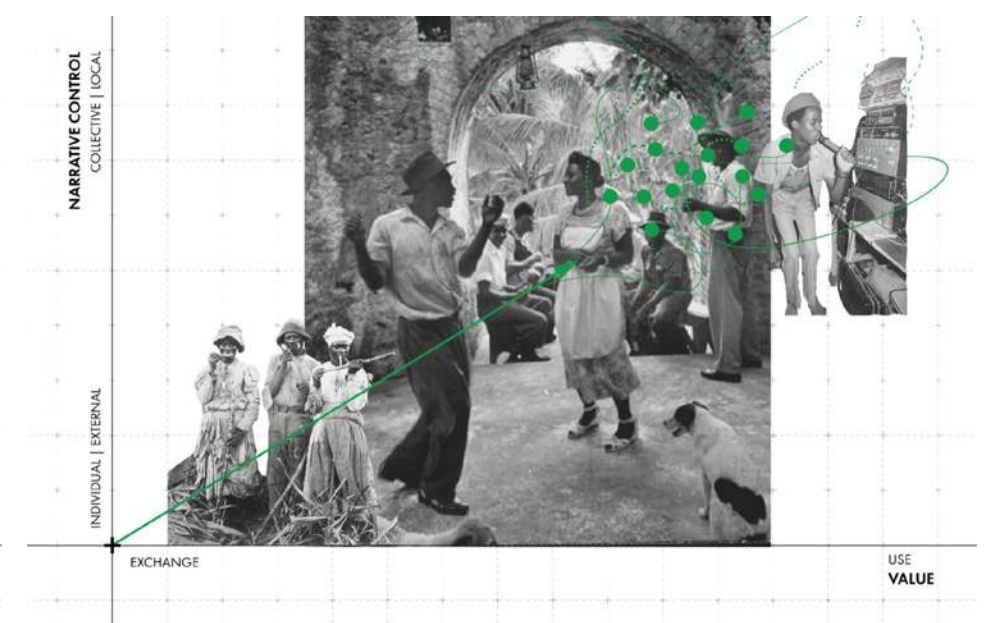
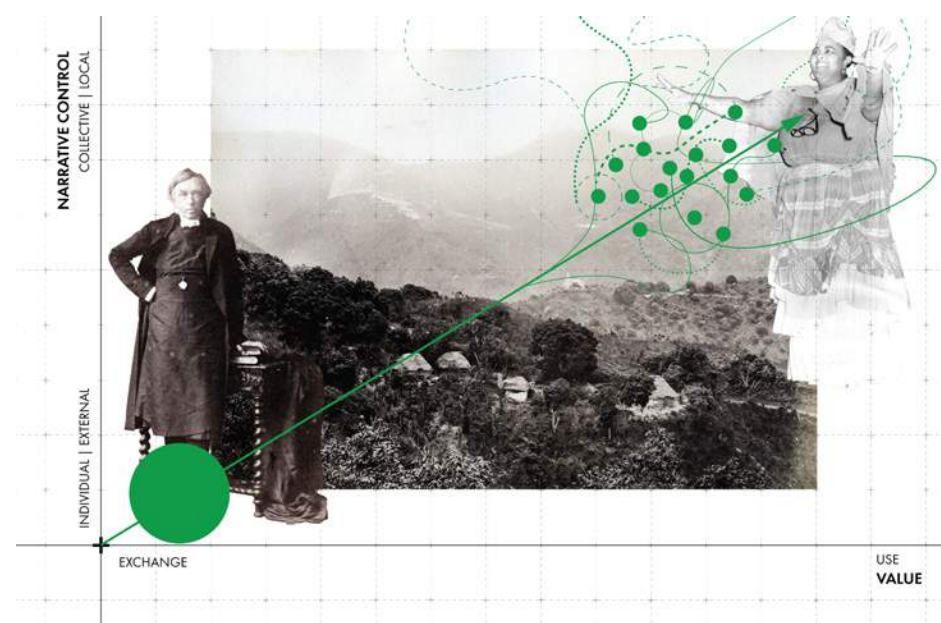
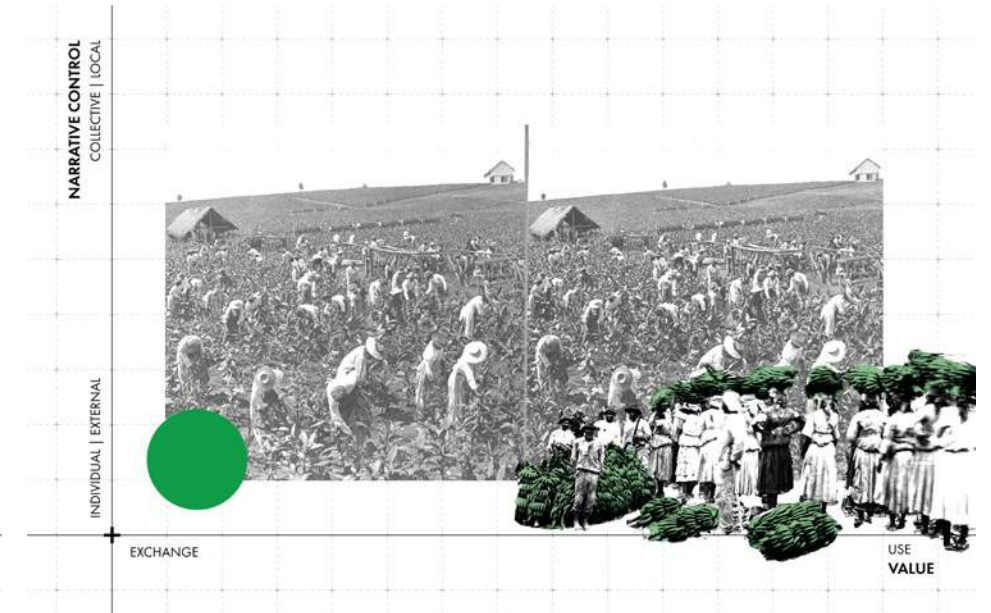
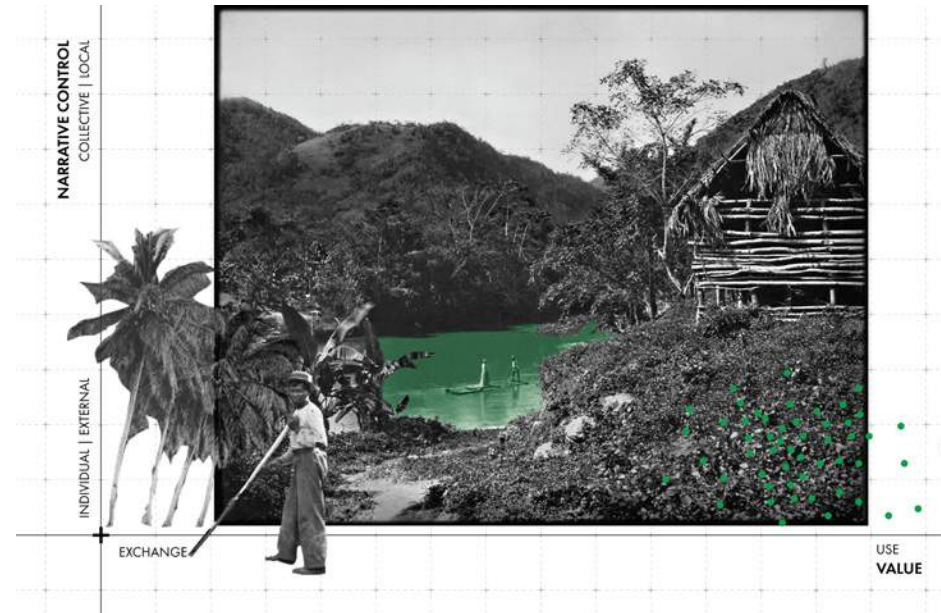
Atlanta after Property | Fall 2021

with Daniela Déu, Rhea Pai & Rotina Tian

Critics | Emanuel Admassu, Nina Cooke John, Chat Travieso & Lexi Tsien

The world of property centers culture and identity on our relationship to land possession. The world after property centers folk culture and the communal needs of people within nature as a means to achieve justice.

New narratives are positioned outside the historical possession and extraction from land to meet market demands. It acknowledges resistance to external authors and manipulators as part of collective narratives but moves beyond it through an ambivalence that decenters soil and ownership as central to identity.



**NARRATIVE CONTROL**

**COLLECTIVE | LOCAL**

**INDIVIDUAL | EXTERNAL**

**EXCHANGE**

**USE  
VALUE**



# SPATIO-TEMPORAL FLUX

*learning from*

**Kumbh Mela | Allahabad, India**

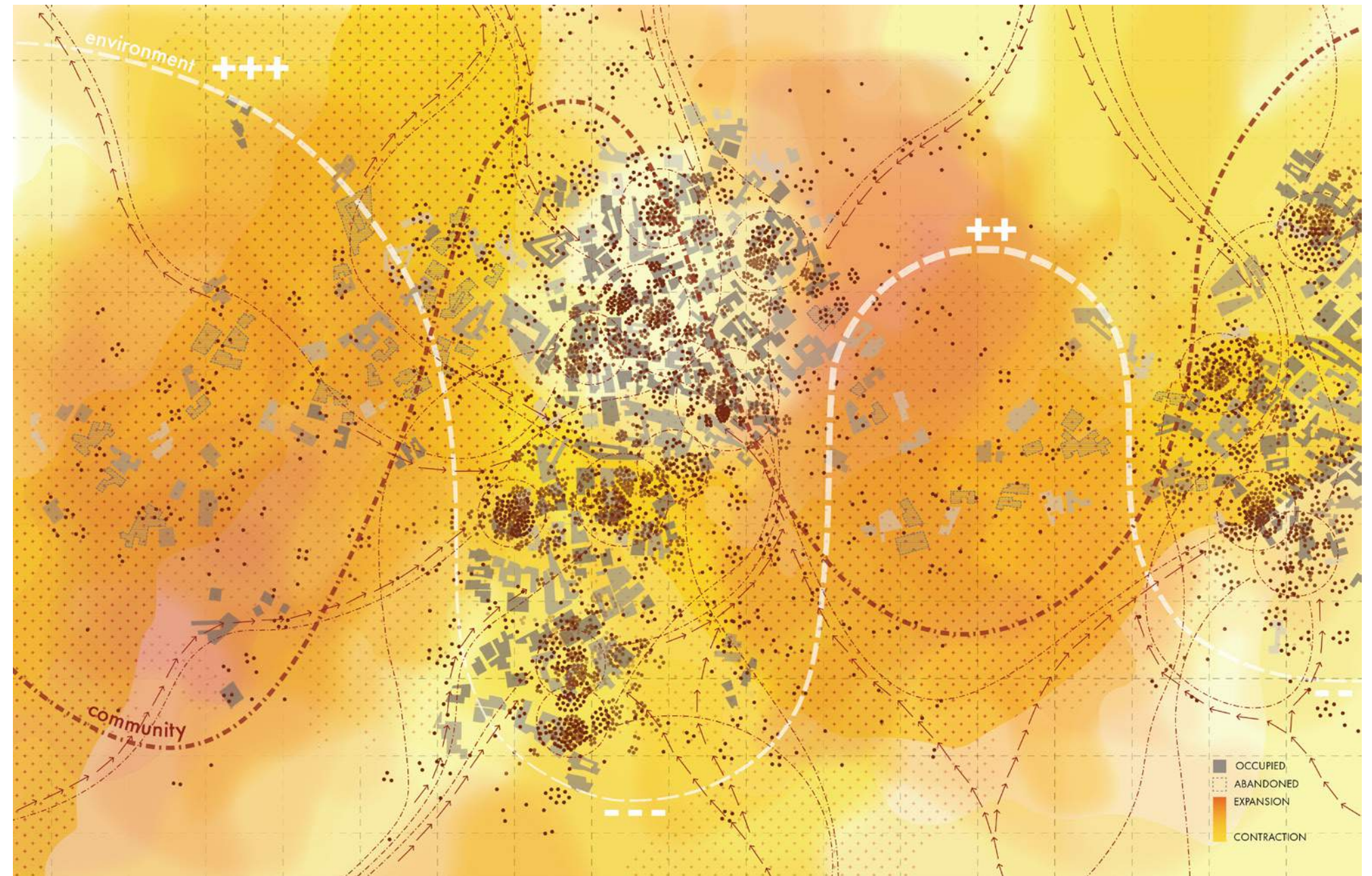
**Atlanta after Property | Fall 2021**

*with Bianca Bryant, Riya Chadha & Gloria Mah*

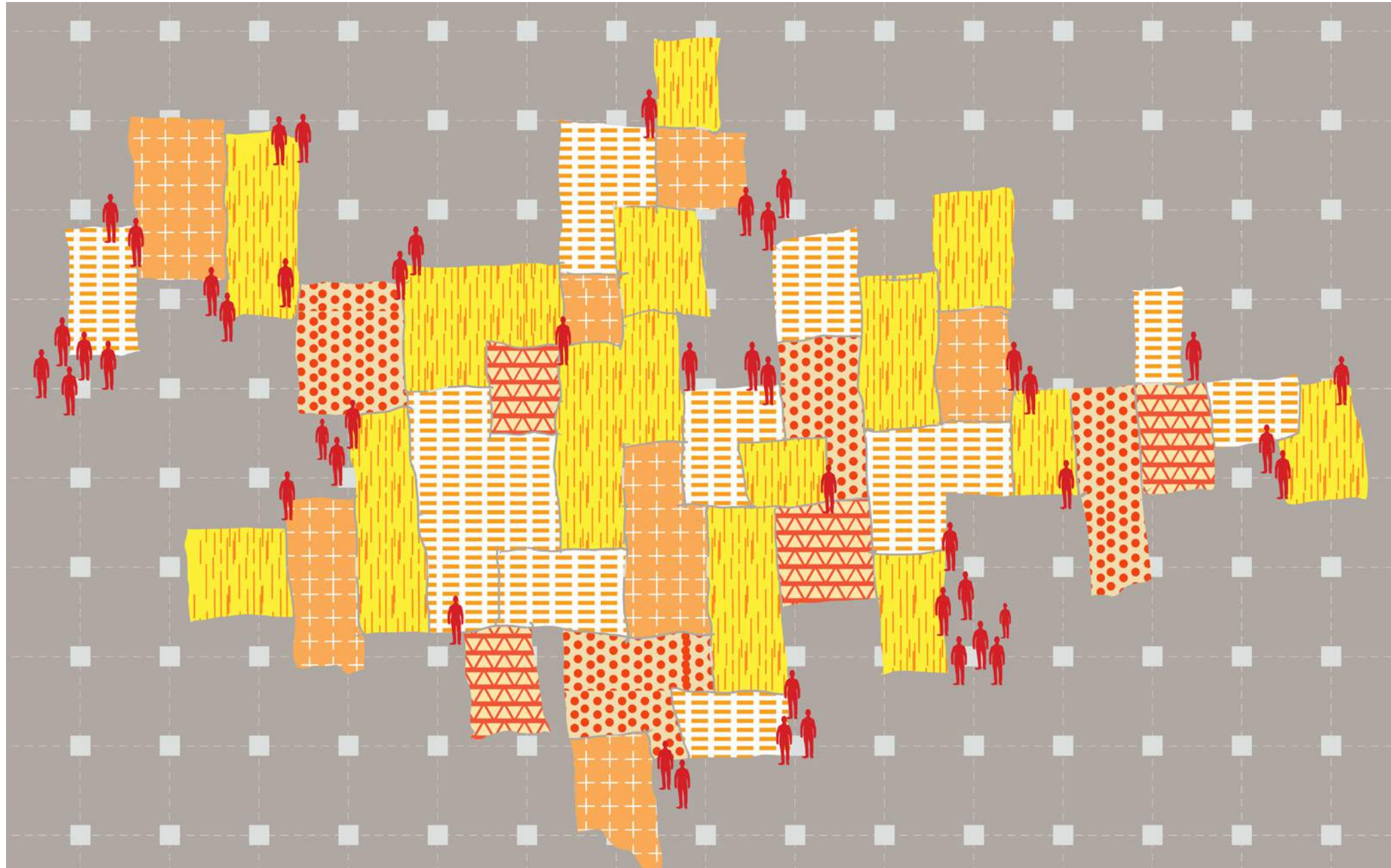
Critics | Emanuel Admassu, Nina Cooke John, Chat Travieso & Lexi Tsien

Allowing the natural environment to dictate the space and time when the community can use the land defies preconceived bounds of the built environment and the regime of property.

The unpredictable expansion and contraction of environmental factors determines the way people adapt and live with nature and not against it, as is evident on the site of Kumbh Mela.







# COUNTER-PUBLICS

*learning from*

**Durga Puja | Kolkata, India**

**Atlanta after Property | Fall 2021**

*with Gloria Mah*

Critics | Emanuel Admassu, Nina Cooke John, Chat Travieso & Lexi Tsien

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Beyond pre-conceived bounds of ownership, Durga Puja is a unique urban fabric created in public spaces through collective participation. This ephemeral city challenges the regime of exclusivity and hierarchy by taking over streets, parks, and plazas to celebrate culture, aspirations, and beliefs.

# ENCLAVE OF RESISTANCE

## Pratt Pullman Yard, Atlanta

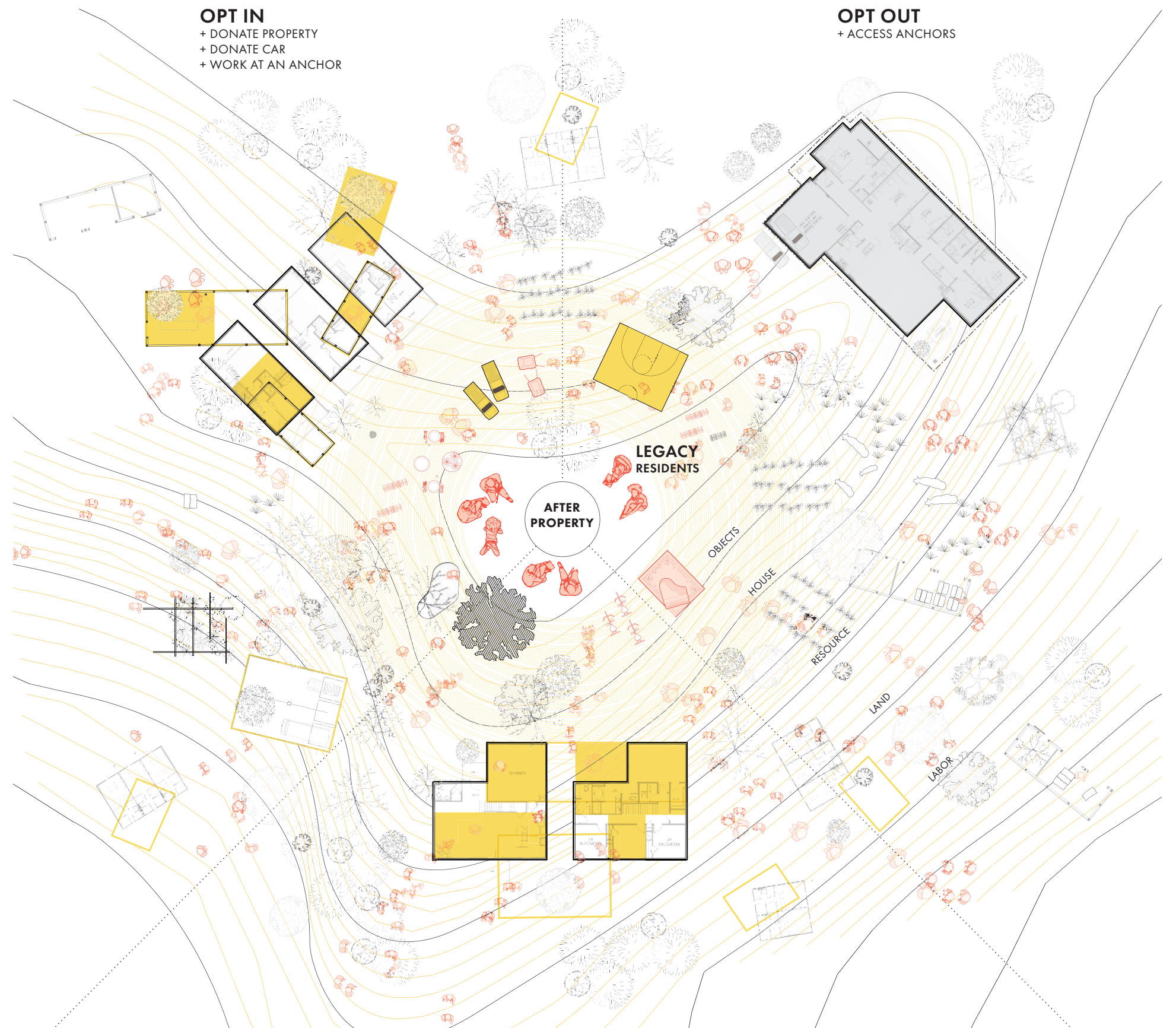
Atlanta after Property | Fall 2021  
with Bianca Bryant, Riya Chadha & Gloria Mah

Critics | Emanuel Admassu, Nina Cooke John, Chat Travieso & Lexi Tsien

In a world after property, enclave spaces dissolve borders in defiance of their external manipulators. In this instance, the enclave creates an antagonistic relationship with developer-owned land through a community land trust while simultaneously dissolving property lines, removing vehicular roads and deconstructing the single family home.

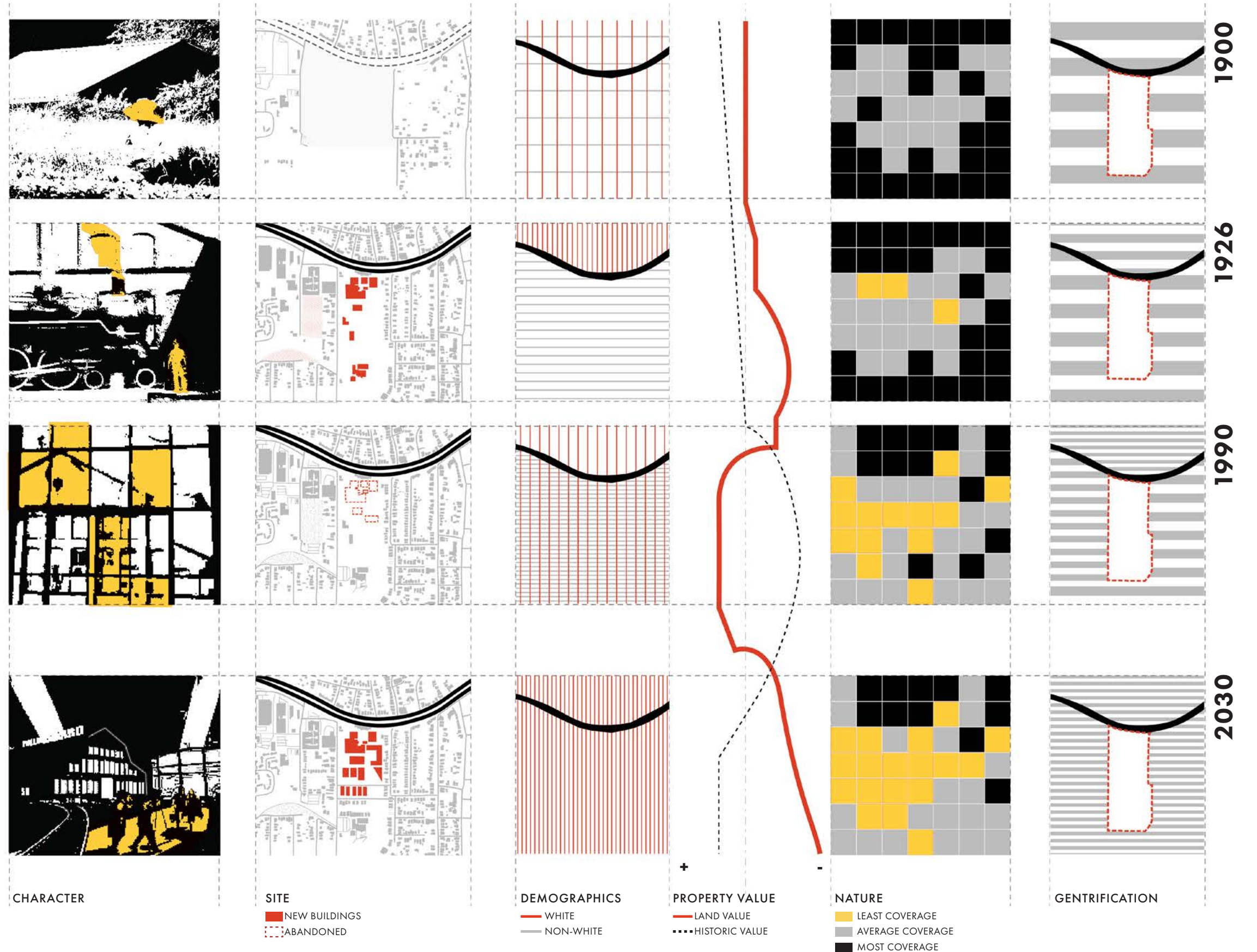
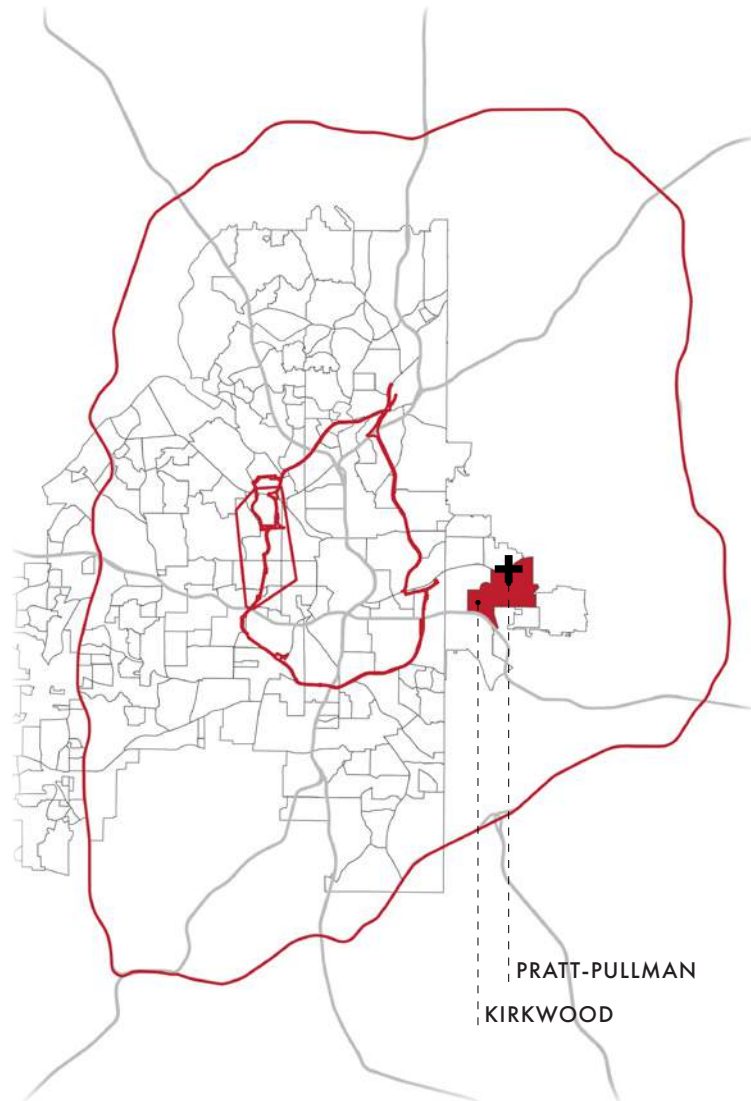
As a result, the enclave fosters community expression and collective living through fluid, rhizomatic growth over time. The act of divorcing wealth from property allows for a new social capital system to form, encouraging a sense of belonging and equity for the co-existence of both humans and nature.

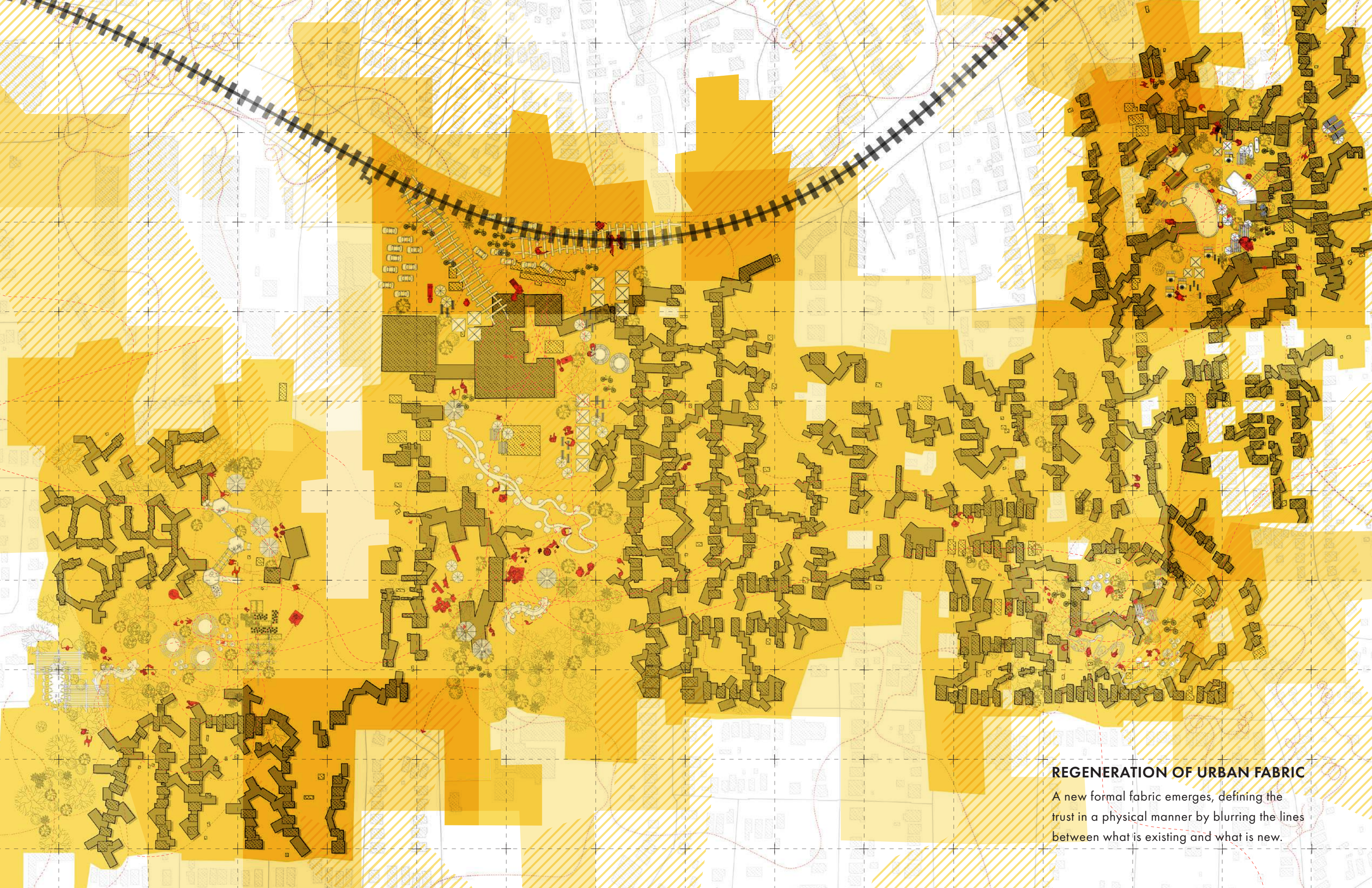
The process of liberation creates a world after property by overthrowing, dissolving, and transgressing the boundaries of programmatic spaces through individual and collective acts of resistance.



Pratt-Pullman Yard is complicit in the regime of property because of its industrial history, its remediated and historicized present, and its "Creative City" envisioned future. Caught in a vicious cycle of transactional systems, its evolution follows the age-old pattern that gentrifies and displaces historically marginalized communities for the sake of profit for the few.

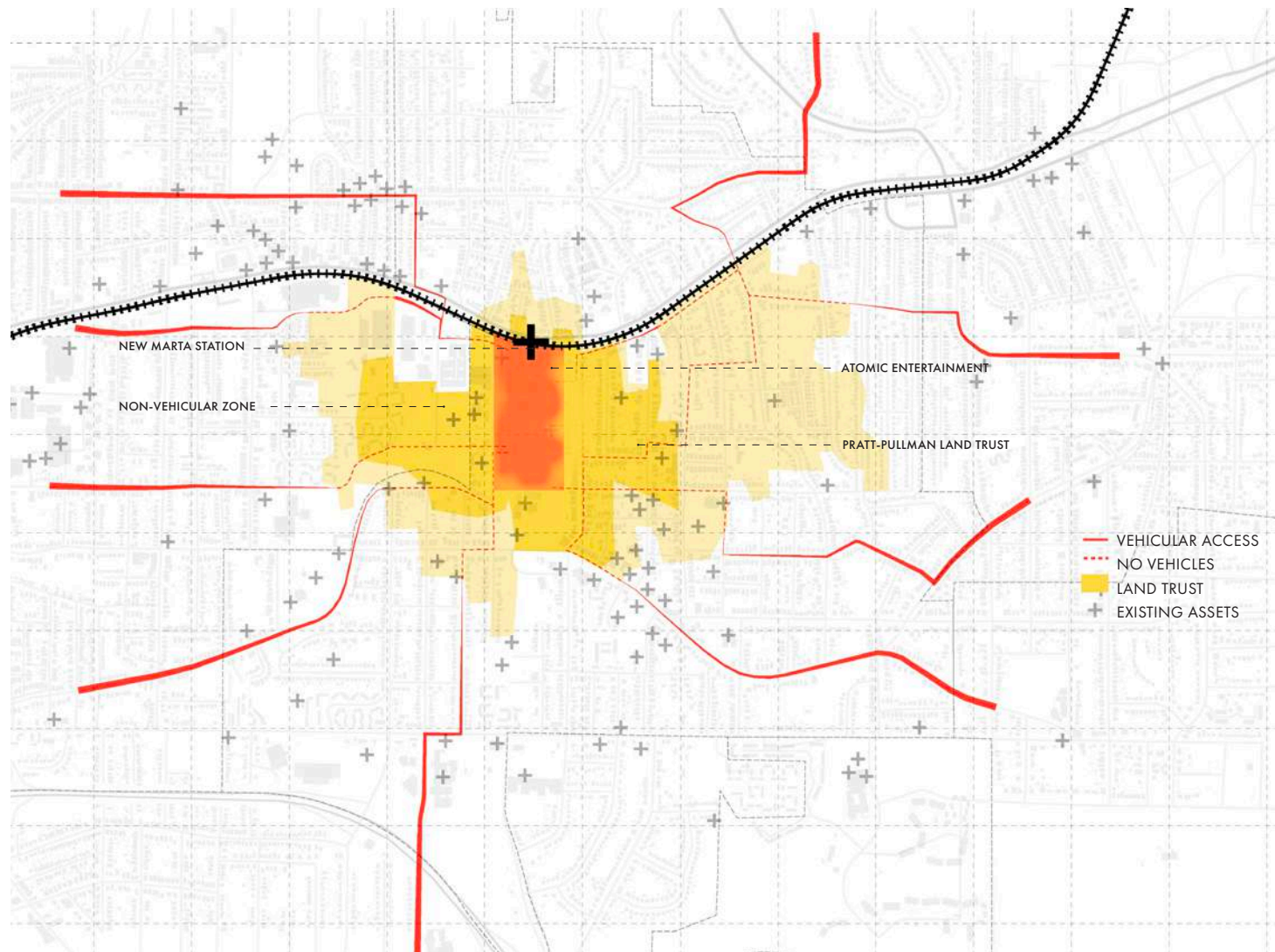
On this site, property is a series of borders that are dividers, displacers, and concentrators of resources that have been imposed by external forces.





**REGENERATION OF URBAN FABRIC**

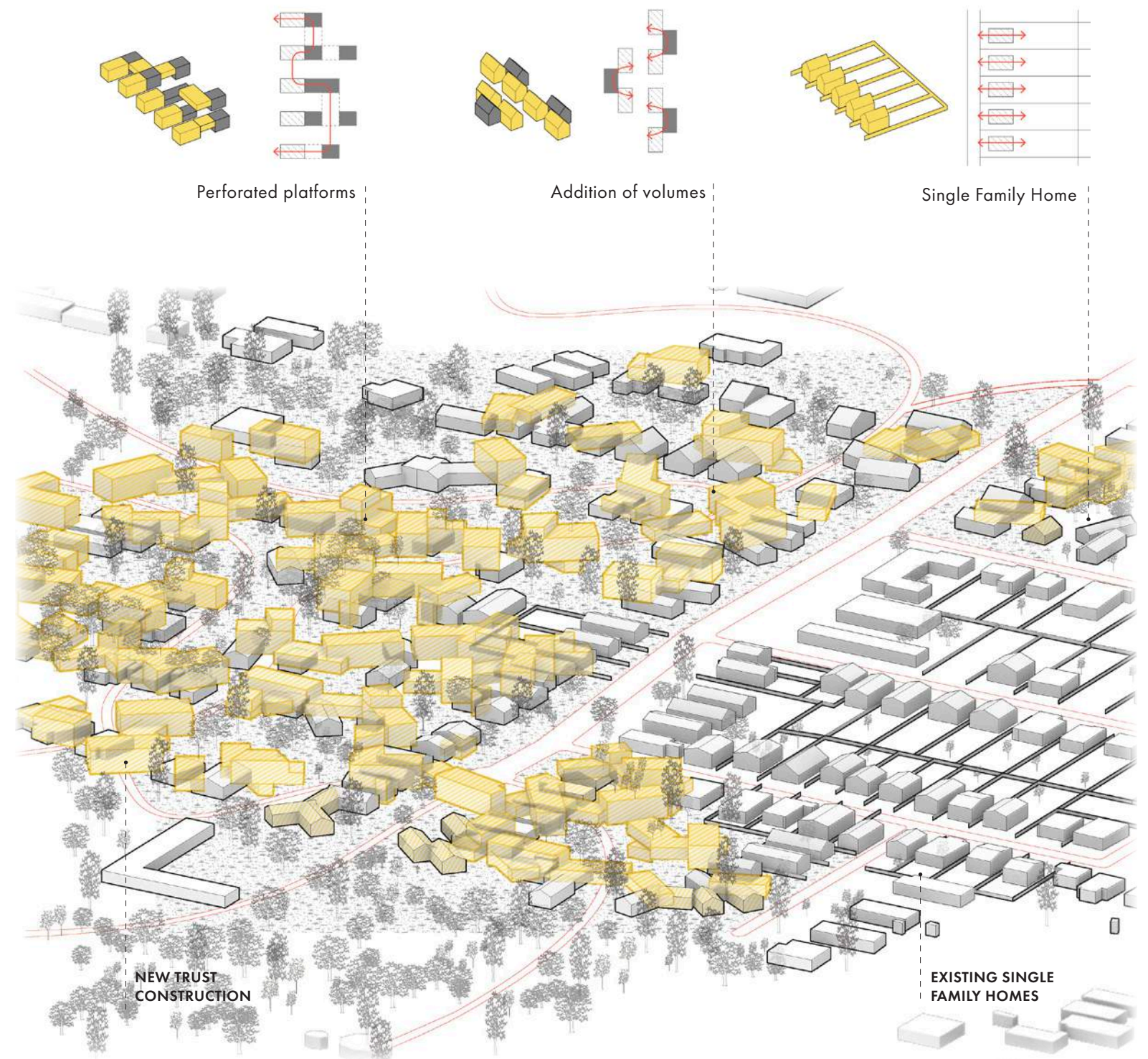
A new formal fabric emerges, defining the trust in a physical manner by blurring the lines between what is existing and what is new.



The enclave creates an antagonistic relationship with developer-owned land through a **community land trust** that takes **collective ownership** of the land surrounding Pratt Pullman. The physical form of the land trust emerges through the **deconstruction of the single family home**. By expanding and merging, **dissolving boundaries and morphing into a rhizomatic structure** it creates fluid, multi-generational relationships between the individual and the collective.

**01 GROWTH OF PRATT PULLMAN LAND TRUST**

**02 RHIZOMATIC ADDITION OF FORM**

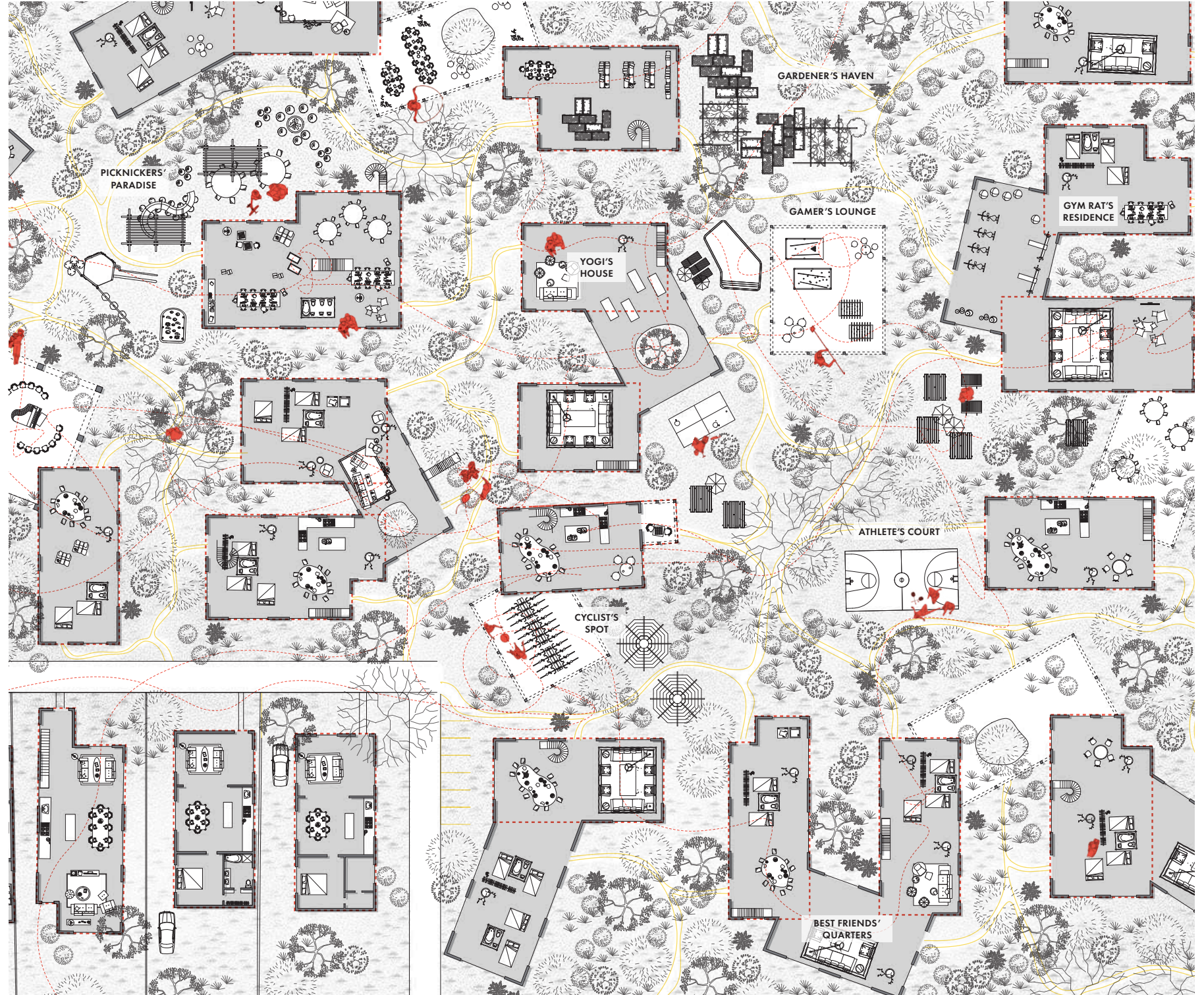




01

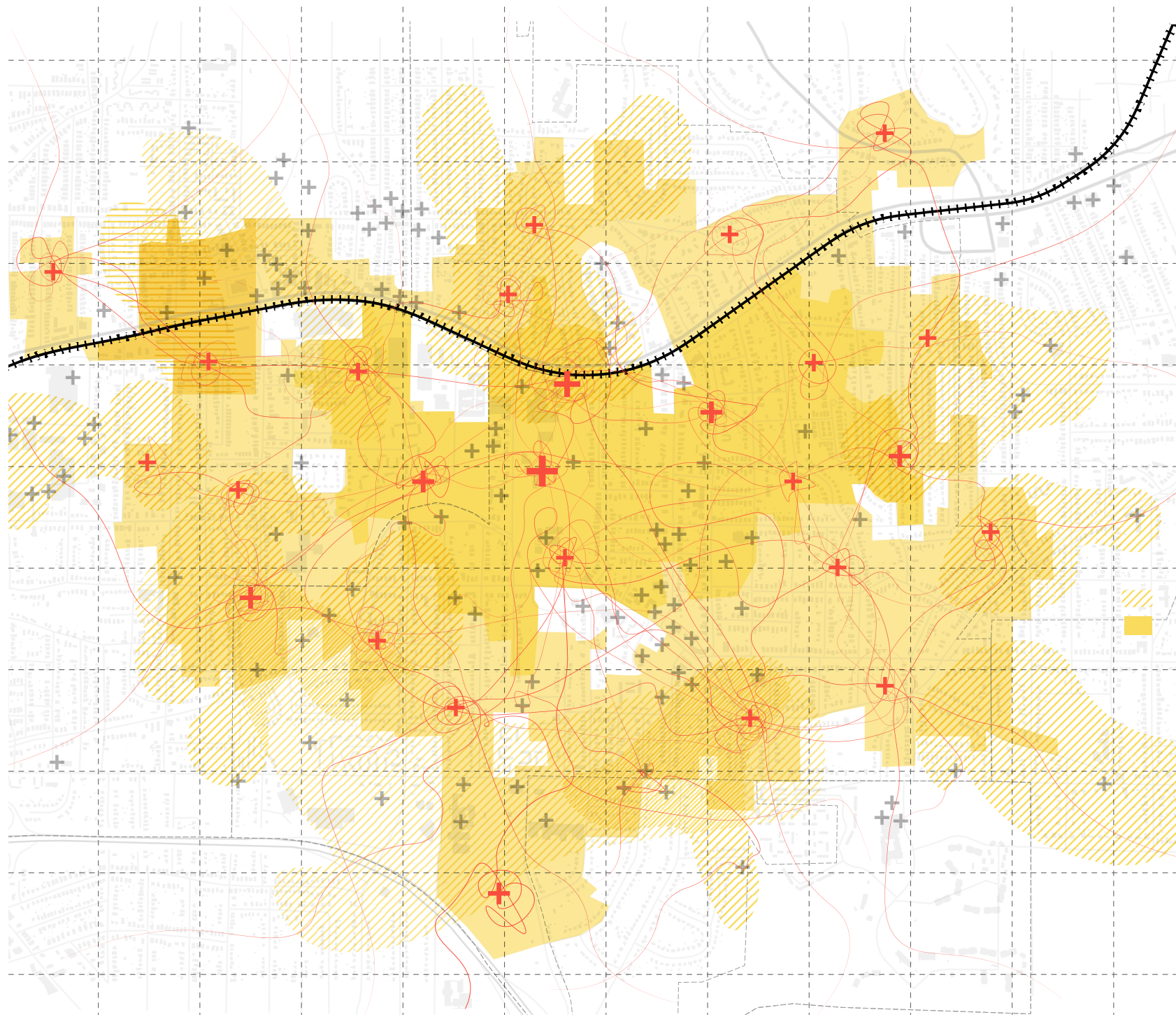


02



The new fabric combines the principles of porosity with the spirit of the longhouse typology, where walkability is preserved on the ground floor creating a continuous flow between the interior and exterior. This perforated yet interconnected built environment fosters a symbiotic relationship between humans and ecology, instilling a sense of care.

- 01 COMMUNITY GATHERINGS IN COMMON SPACES
- 02 POROSITY BETWEEN INDOOR + OUTDOOR



As the community land trust grows, so would systems of mutual aid, thus building community wealth by pooling both tangible and intangible resources. This disperses resources for multi-functional cross programming based on existing assets. These anchor points, once areas of resource deficiency, are transformed into community hubs.

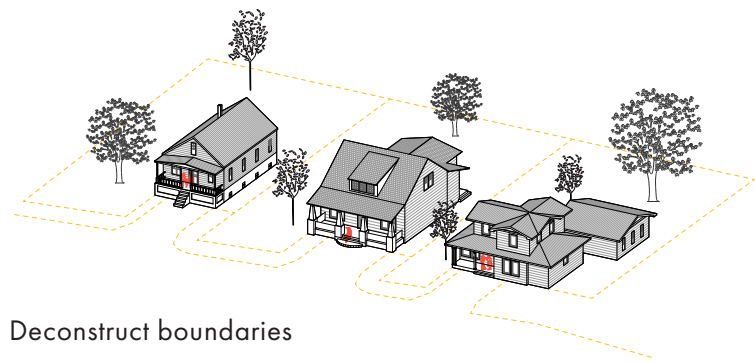
- 01 NETWORK OF ANCHORS
- 02 TRANSFORMATION OF EXISTING SCHOOL
- 03 REACTIVATED PRATT PULLMAN YARD



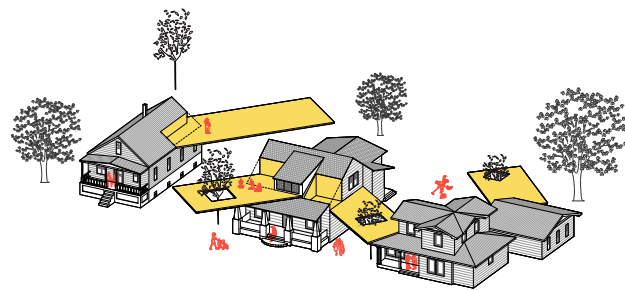
This new rhizomatic building typology, combines the internal and external areas of existing single family homes for collective living. To foster a community of social care and responsibility, the trust initiates a new socio-economic system based on social credits that allow residents to opt-in or out.



Existing



Deconstruct boundaries



Carved and perforated platforms



New volumes for collective living

01 INCREMENTAL GROWTH  
02 UNFOLDED SECTION X PLAN



EXISTING  
FLOOR ABOVE



In a world after property, the enclave fosters community expression and collective living through fluid, rhizomatic growth over time. The act of divorcing wealth from property allows for a new social capital system to form, encouraging a sense of belonging and equity for both humans and nature.



EXISTING  
FLOOR ABOVE

# REIMAGINING NEZA

Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl, Mexico City

Fabrics and Typologies | Fall 2021

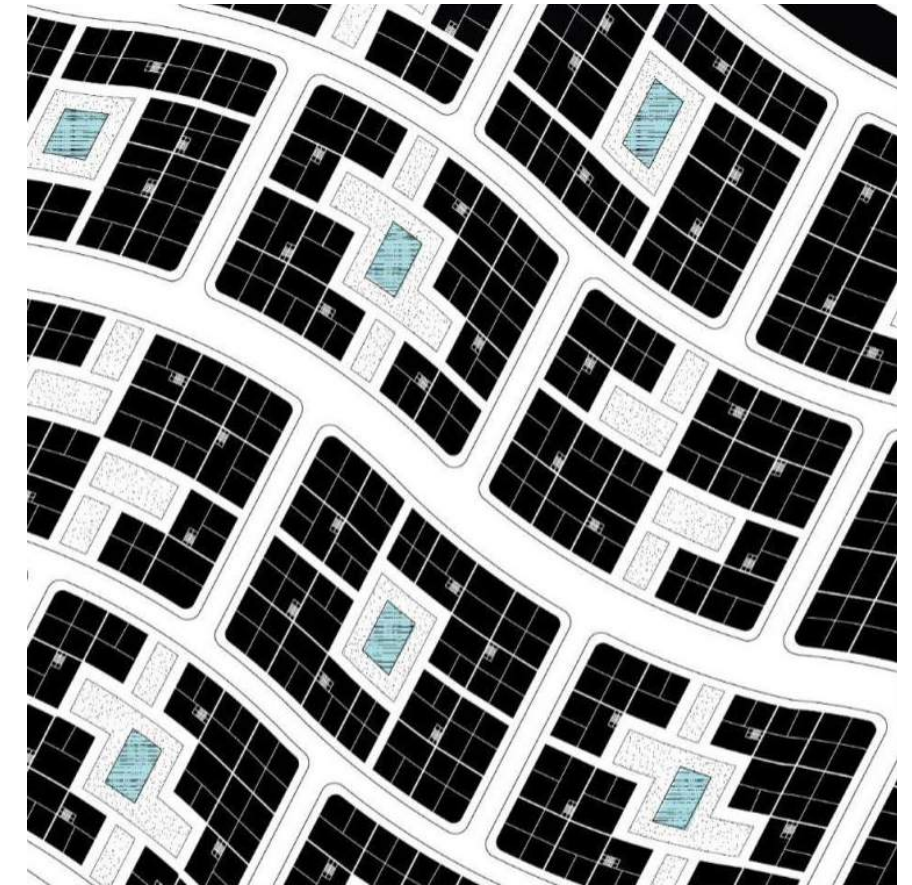
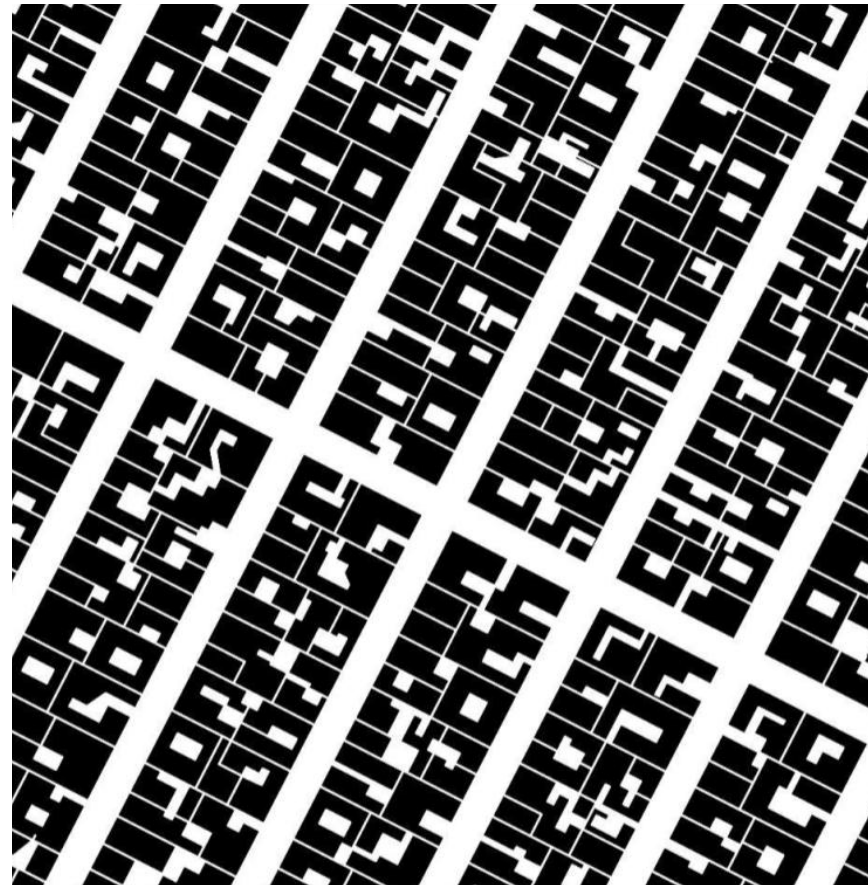
with *Giulia Chagas*

Critic | Richard Plunz

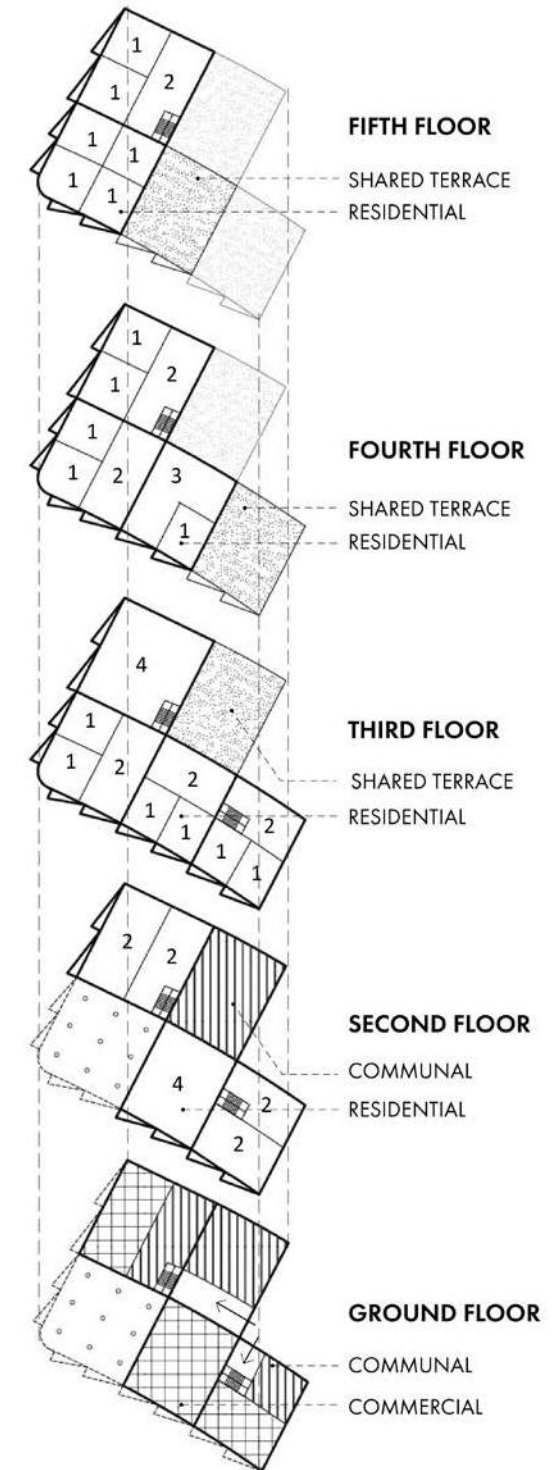
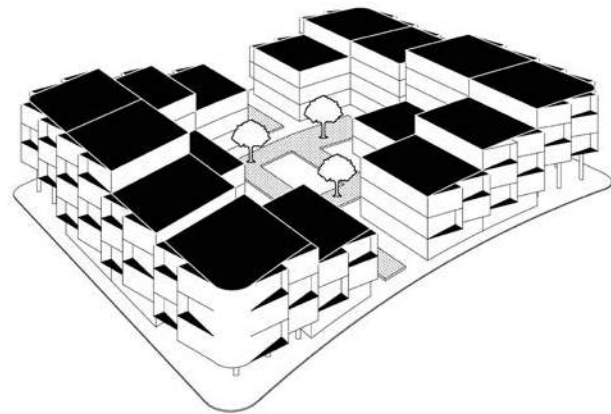
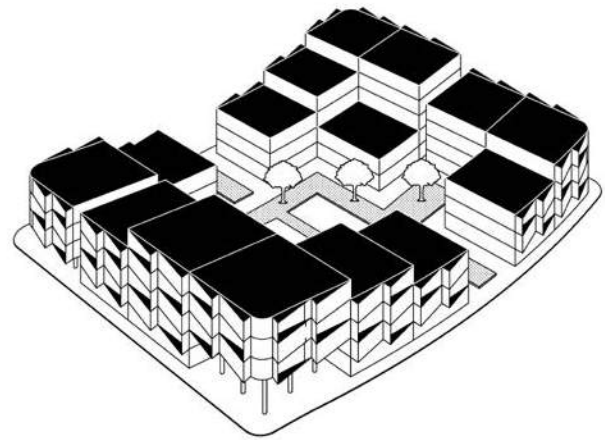
Ciudad Neza, located on the bed of Lake Texcoco, was formed through illegal land subdivisions and sales by developers as well as invasions by squatters. The homes themselves were created through the process of “autoconstruction”. Concrete and cinder blocks were stacked 1-3 stories over time creating a diversity in built form that reflected the myriad needs of its residents, and their ability to shape buildings to meet those needs.

This proposal aims to re-densify the fabric using modern building practices to provide basic services while retaining the rich socio-cultural experience of Neza. This is achieved by taking precedent from Camillo Sitte’s, “City Planning According to Artistic Principles” to create a harmonious urban fabric that is more than the sum of its parts and by placing streets ending on visual anchors for an enhanced pedestrian experience. The contours of the lake form the basis for design of the main avenue and intersecting streets. Shared enclosed urban courtyards at the block scale are used to break up the density and allow for passive ventilation and natural lighting. Increased street widths and the semi-enclosed courtyards aim to accommodate cross-programming of markets, festivals, and other elements characteristic of Mexican society.

Using these planning techniques, the proposed urban fabric can be used as a model of urbanization for the peripheries of megacities and provide an alternative to the deplorable living conditions while preserving the strong social network and culture of these settlements.



This porous system of connecting streets at ground level, elevated walkways, and repetition of modules horizontally and vertically form a diverse fabric that can accommodate various tenant types and family sizes to promote communal living. The public plazas contain water features that capture surface run-off and provide water for use and prevent flooding.



01 INTERNAL COURTYARD

02 WIDENED STREETS

# INDUSTRIAL CO-OP ZONE

## Willets Point, New York

City Edges | Summer 2021  
with Surabhi Dahivalkar & Hao Ma

Critics | Nans Voron, Sagi Golan, Jae Shin, Galen Pardee,  
Austin Sakong, Sean Gallagher & Tami Banh

Working with unique local conditions the people of Willets Point have created a cohesive social network and a robust informal economy that provides essential mobility support services to New Yorkers. It is crucial to embrace, celebrate, and leverage the existing knowledge and skill set of this community while accommodating spatial and environmental demands over time and promoting the socio-economic well-being of people.

Creating a dedicated industrial zone organised through a workers co-operative provides long-term economic viability for the Willets Point community and gives them collective power to advocate for themselves to thrive as an innovation hub.

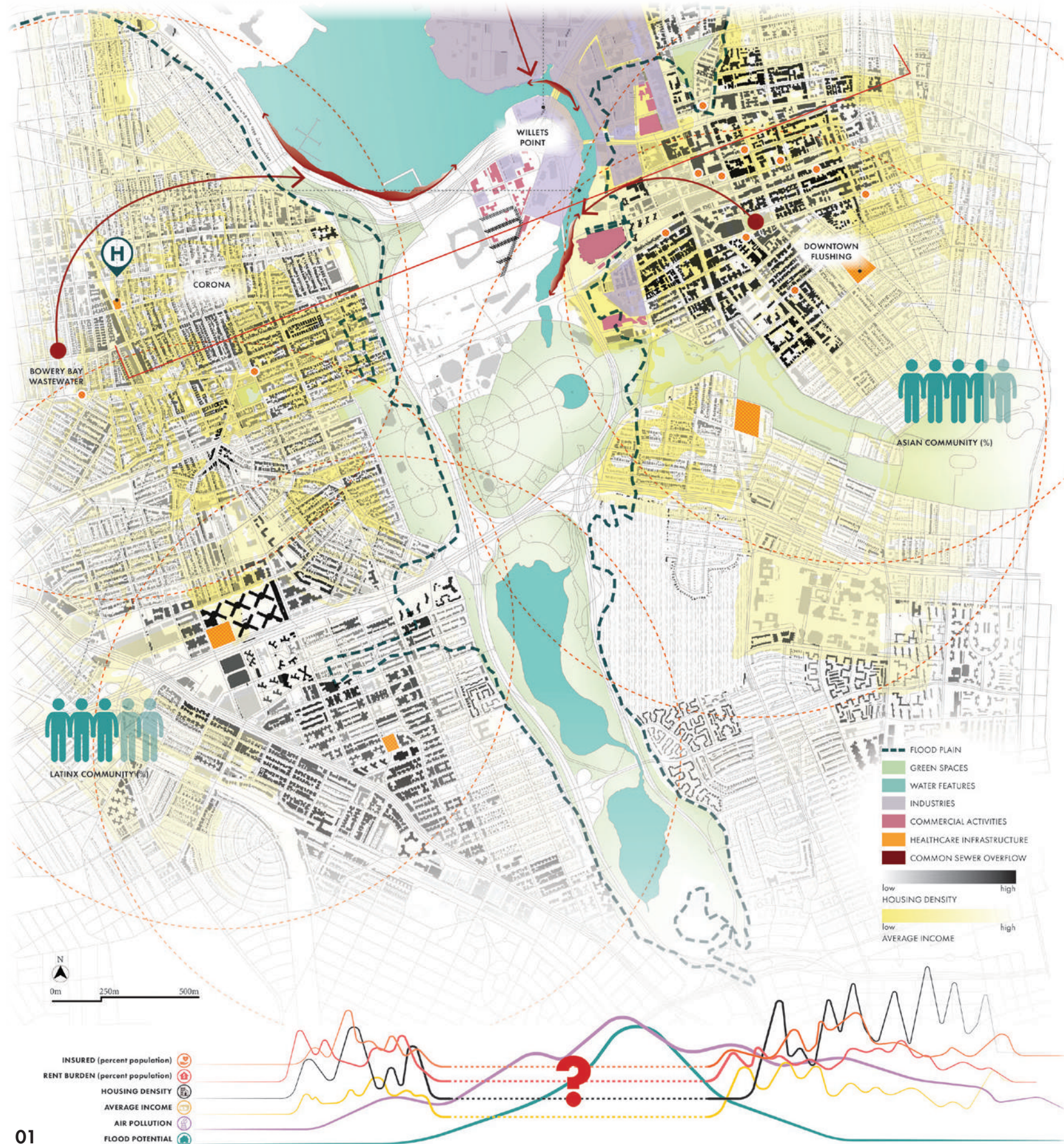




- MTA RAILYARD EXPANSION
- INNOVATION HUB
- INDUSTRIAL PLAZA
- EXPO CENTER
- LIGHTRAIL
- CENTRAL WASTE MANAGEMENT
- CO-OP HUB
- MULTI-PURPOSE PODS
- GREEN BUFFER
- RESIDENTIAL
- PUBLIC PARK
- SHOP EXPANSION
- EXISTING SHOPS

An incremental approach is used to expand shops, add housing, provide basic sanitation services, and spaces for public services such as education, skills training, and exhibitions. The industrial plaza serves as an innovation hub for testing and experimenting with new technology and the railyard is expanded for connectivity.

- RESIDENTIAL
- INNOVATION HUB
- GREEN SPACES
- ADDITIONS
- EXISTING STRUCTURES



01

**68%**  
INDUSTRIAL  
SPACE LOST IN  
WILLETS POINT

**21%**  
INDUSTRIAL  
SPACE LOST  
IN NYC

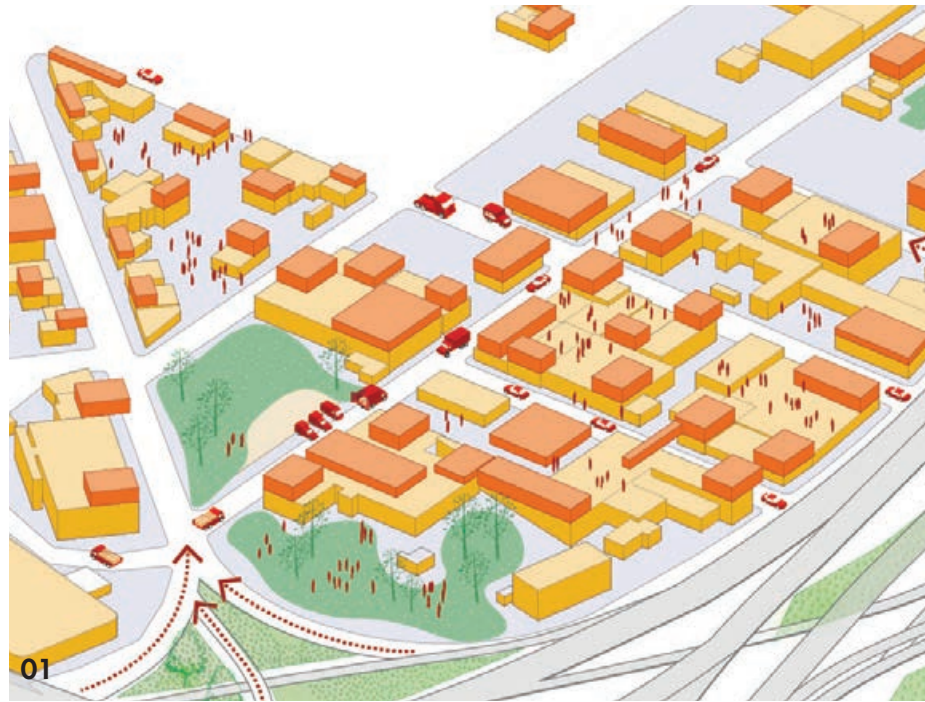
**16%**  
INDUSTRIAL  
SPACE LOST  
IN QUEENS



Willet's Point is the missing middle piece in the transect between Corona and Flushing that has been rezoned, demapped and denied basic services over the years. Through power of ownership of industry it can achieve self-independence by change the definition of industry to include not just labor and production but also education, creativity, and social services. A workers cooperative not only empowers but also forefronts the interests of the workers themselves.

01 VITAL PIECE CONNECTING CORONA & FLUSHING

02 WORKERS PROTEST REZONINGS

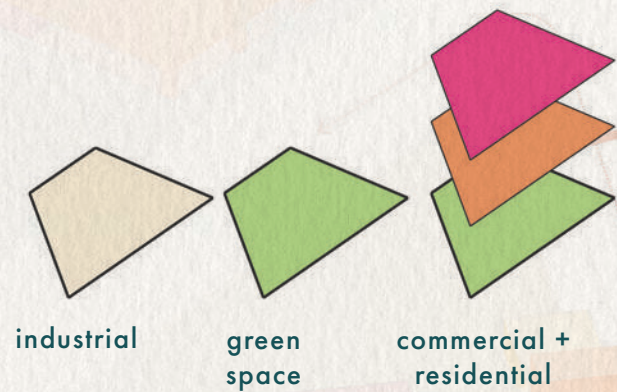


To remediate the deplorable street condition basic physical infrastructure-paved roads, bike lanes, and permeable sidewalks are installed. The structures are strengthened to incorporate new structures and connected by community terraces. Residential spaces are built above the shops incrementally.

**01** COMMERCIAL + RESIDENTIAL ZONING

**02** MIXED-USE STREET VIEW

**03** ADDITION OVER TIME



-  
**RELOCATE**  
to central facility

++  
**RETROFIT**  
existing structures in good condition

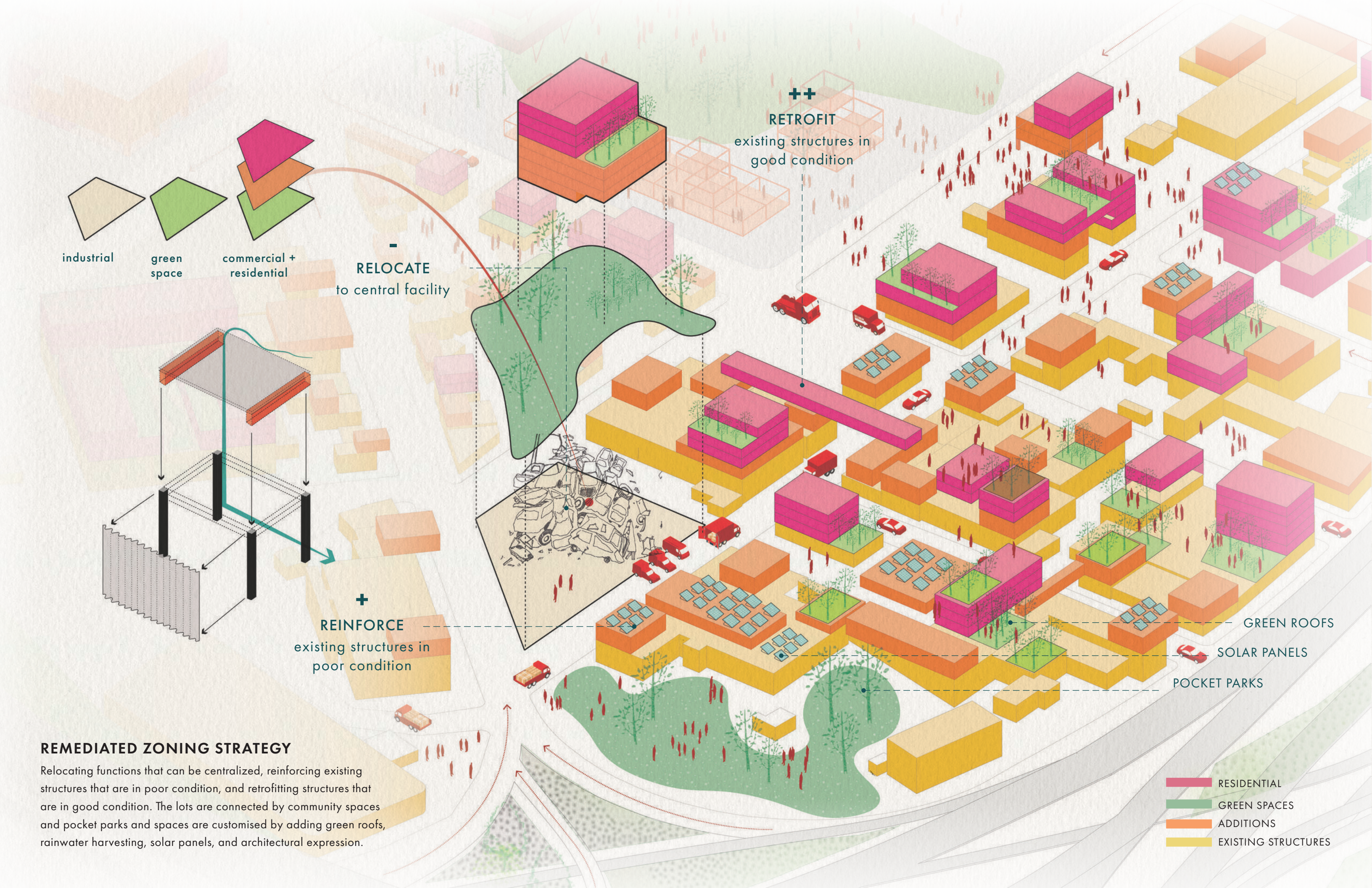
+  
**REINFORCE**  
existing structures in poor condition

GREEN ROOFS  
SOLAR PANELS  
POCKET PARKS

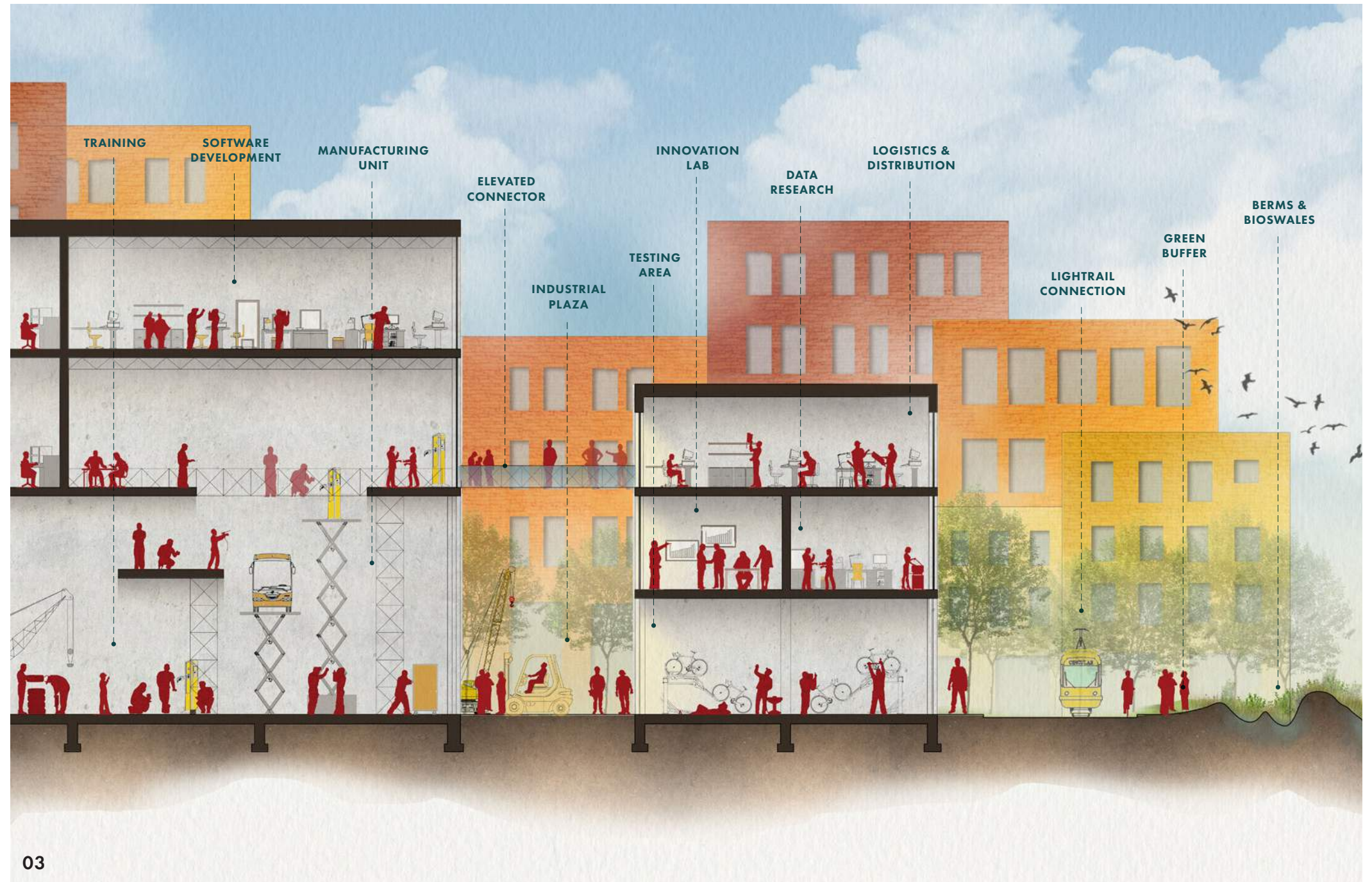
**REMEDIATED ZONING STRATEGY**

Relocating functions that can be centralized, reinforcing existing structures that are in poor condition, and retrofitting structures that are in good condition. The lots are connected by community spaces and pocket parks and spaces are customised by adding green roofs, rainwater harvesting, solar panels, and architectural expression.

- RESIDENTIAL
- GREEN SPACES
- ADDITIONS
- EXISTING STRUCTURES





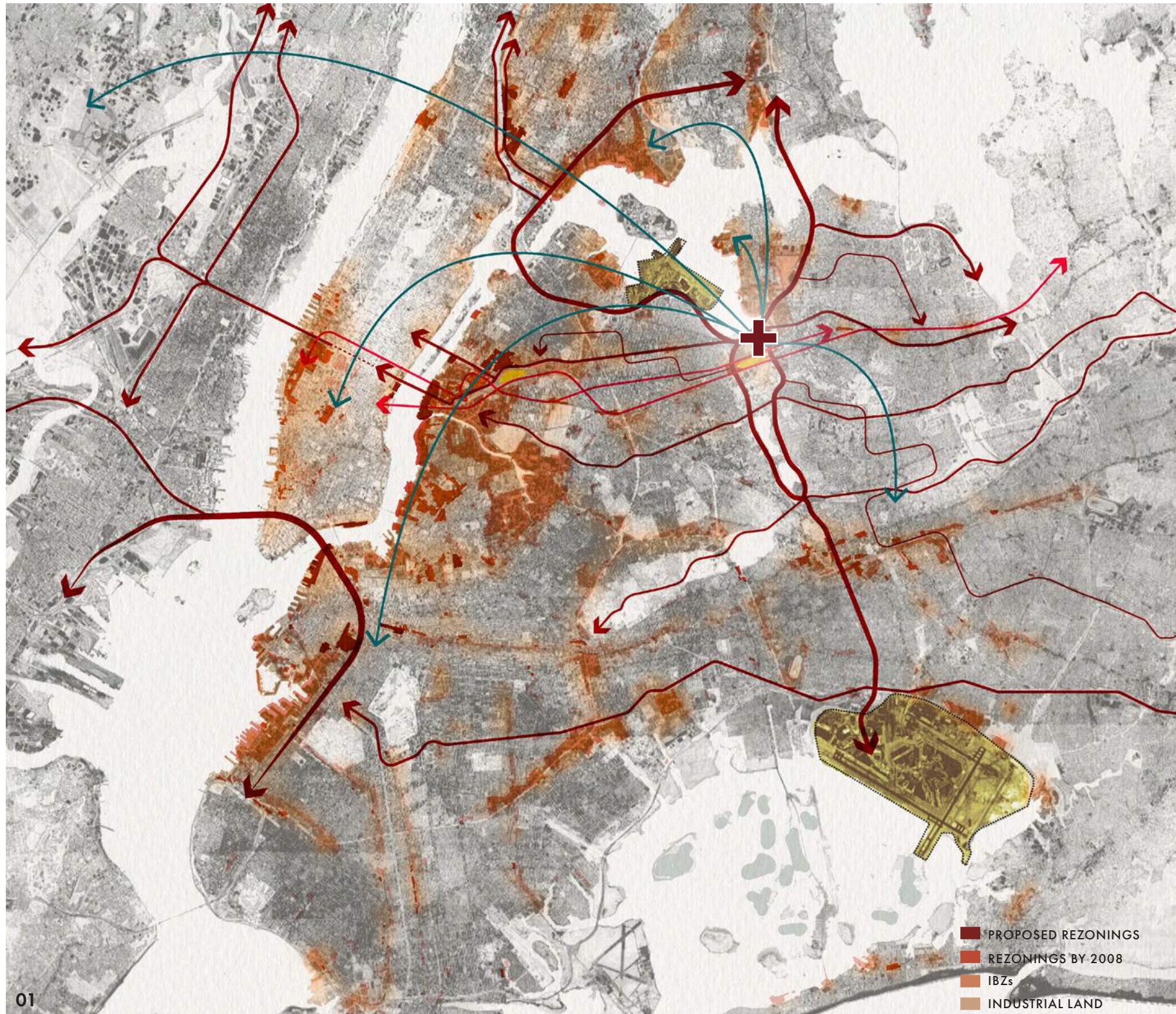


The urban scale lab works in synergy between all functions and is connected for vehicular and human circulation through a central plaza and network of elevated walkways. The experimental hub operates at the forefront of cutting-edge technology and research in future mobility systems.

**01** INDUSTRIAL PLAZA WITH CONNECTED WALKWAYS

**02** STREET VIEW FROM MAIN ARTERY

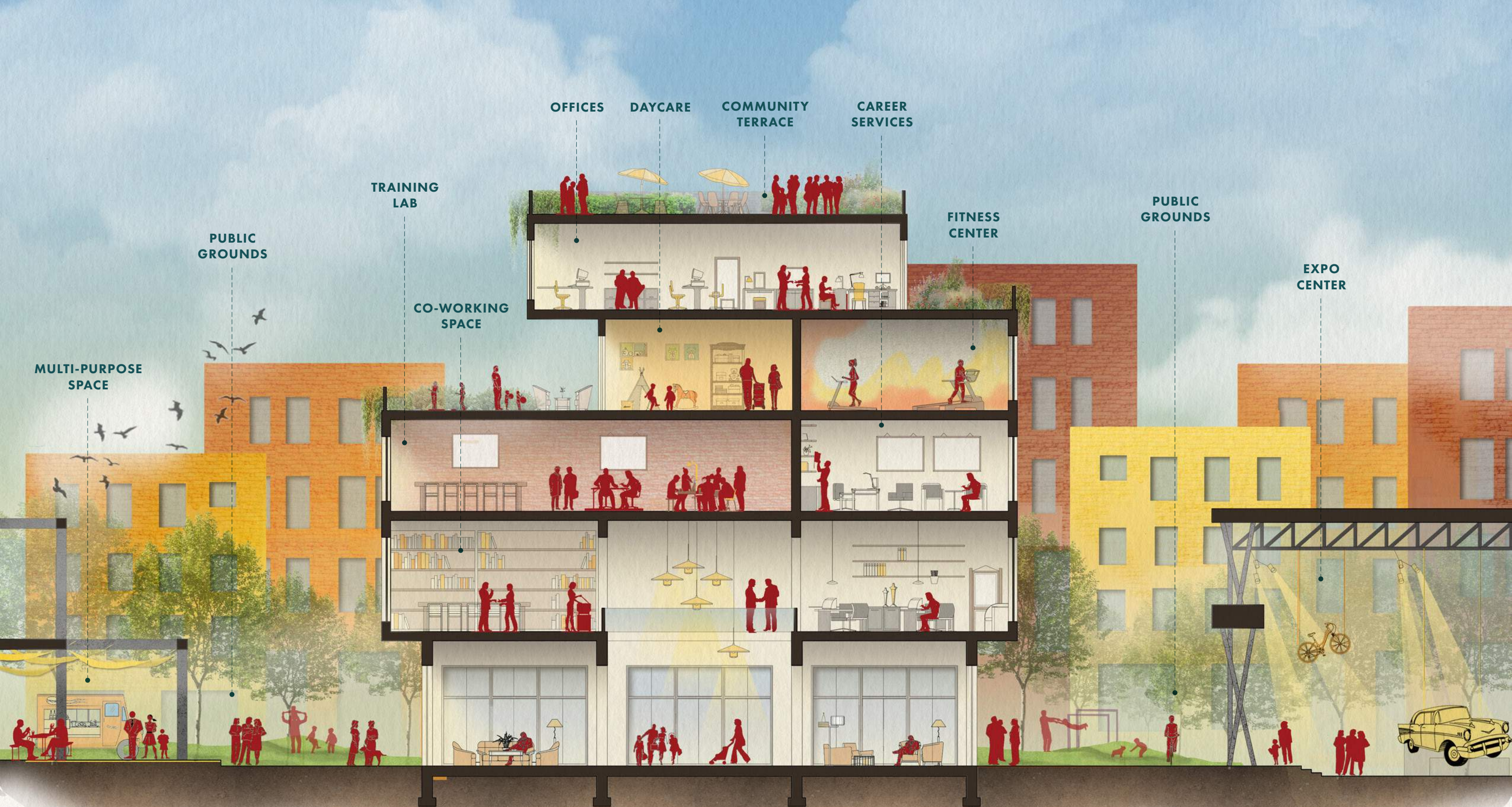
**03** INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION



Through these inclusive and holistic strategies a robust network of social, physical and economic connections is created to the surroundings and the greater New York City region. The co-operative model could be used as a framework by other regions in the city which are facing similar issues of upzoning industrial lands.



01 NETWORK OF INTERCONNECTION  
 02 EXHIBITION GROUNDS  
 03 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT CO-OP HUB



PUBLIC  
GROUNDS

TRAINING  
LAB

OFFICES

DAYCARE

COMMUNITY  
TERRACE

CAREER  
SERVICES

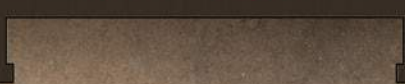
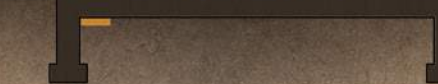
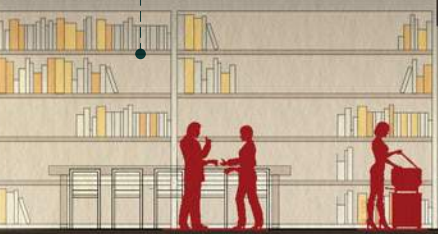
FITNESS  
CENTER

PUBLIC  
GROUNDS

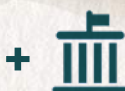
EXPO  
CENTER

MULTI-PURPOSE  
SPACE

CO-WORKING  
SPACE



advocacy



government



private

funding  
land rights



co-op

establish  
mediate



skill training



construction



social services



partnerships

# MEASURING

Cameron Rowland x DAAR

Immeasurable Cities | Spring 2022

with Yasmine Katkhuda

Critic | Emanuel Admassu

18th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

**Title:**  
Narratives of Dispossession (2022)  
Light Boxes and Photographic Dossiers

Courtesy the Artist

**Authors:**  
Cameron Rowland

**Collaborators:**  
Mosaic Room, London

**With Special Thanks:**  
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Tina M. Campt

Narratives of Dispossession is an attempt to imagine and practice 'objecthood' beyond property value. In colonial times, the slave functioned as a source of labor, chattel, and reproduction for the master as well as the greater economy as both person and property. Rowland interprets today's prison labor force, as a practiced form of neo-slavery that not only has historical precedence in this country, but continues to thrive in our present economy. Shifting the focus from subjects to subjectivizations and from persons to situations, Rowland highlights the forces that shape, produce, and terrorize it.

In tracing, documenting, revealing and representing objects of labor production and extraction beyond the narrative of suffering and displacement, Rowland's work combines research and strategic contractual agreements with the presentation of objects selected for their socially illuminating value. They reclaim these objects that are markers of corrupt history, stripping the objects of their use-value, and positioning them as relics of structural racism. Narratives of Dispossession thus calls for speculation of a different kind: is it possible to conceive of reparations outside of systems of property and wealth?

With a nod to site-specificity, the exhibition challenges definitions of people, objects, and their colonial foundations, asking instead how art can be mobilized as an agent of political transformation. This collection of images attempts to deactivate the claims of objectivity and provide an affirmation of political idealism in the face of shackling historical precedent.



# TRAVELING

DAAR x Cameron Rowland

Immeasurable Cities | Spring 2022

with Yasmine Katkhuda

Critic | Emanuel Admassu

**Title:**  
48\_Exiled Permanence (2022)

**Authors:** *DAAR*  
Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti

**Dedication:**  
To those at home, those who can't go home, and those in the diaspora - on their way home.

**Special Thanks:**  
Suad Amiry  
Khalidun Bishara  
Eyal Weizman  
Nora Akawi  
@adalahjusticeproject  
@visualizing\_palestine  
@theimeu  
@jewishvoiceforpeace

**Citations:**

- 1 Amale Andraos and Caitlin Blanchfield, "Interview with Suad Amiry," in *The Arab City: Architecture and Representation*, eds. Andraos and Akawi, (NY: Columbia Books, 2016): 141-147.
- 2 "Exile and Liberation: Edward Said's Out of Place." *Rhetorics of Belonging: Nation, Narration, and Israel/Palestine*, by Anna Bernard, Liverpool University Press, Liverpool, 2013, pp. 42-66.
- 3 Fadi Shayya, "Architecture is Never Non-Political: Michael Sorkin," *Failed Architecture*, 13.04.2020.
- 4 "Learning from Palestine," *The Funambulist*, with the Pal Festival of Literature 2019. Léopold Lambert, "The Politics of Narrowness: When Walls Tighten on Bodies," *The Avery Review*.
- 5 Monk, Daniel. *An Aesthetic Occupation: the Immediacy of Architecture and the Palestine Conflict*. Duke University Press, 2002.
- 6 Noura Erakat, *Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine* (California: Stanford University Press, 2019).
- 7 Rana Anani, "Forensic Architecture's First Exhibition in Palestine: Problematic Language and Non-Daring Positions", *Counterpunch*, December 17, 2019.
- 8 Weizman, Eyal, "Lethal Theory," in *Log 7* (2006): 53 - 77.
- 9 Vivien Sansour, "Palatal Geographies," in ...and other such stories: 2019 CAB, eds. Umolu, Angiama, and Tavares (NY: Columbia Books on Architecture and the City, 2019). 117-131.

Camps are constructed as non-permanent sites for shelter in response to influx of peoples (political or climate refugees, voluntary or forced migrants, and internally displaced people). Despite their supposed temporality, they are growing seemingly permanent and regulated especially in the case of Palestine. Where once tensile structures have been replaced by CMU blocks and steel reinforcement - often extruding from rooftops to suggest a generational growth - embodied material of place questions its permanence and failed politics.

Spectators to their disappearance and destruction, uprooted constructs of camp dwellings re-emerge as objects into their subversive futures. How do we rethink material fragments of refugee camps as a political space in exile? How do we re-inhabit, or reclaim, the space of the occupier? Material objects far outlast inhabiting bodies, with geological periods - histories and lineages of their own scales. In states of building construction and decay, colonial practices of property seizure, land dispossession and displacement, urban violence and ecological devastation are fore fronted. Beyond narratives of suffering and displacement, *48\_Exiled Permanence* re-imagines buildings, architecture, construction and industry through ordinary and everyday samples of material and bodily resistance in continual contestation with the occupying force. Stories of places lost in memory, contained within the concrete walls, or otherwise untold by time are here unearthed and reassembled through their fragments towards a future of Palestinian liberation.



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