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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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Willets 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 co-operative 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.
REMISSIONED 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.
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.
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.
MEASURING
Cameron Rowland x DAAR

Immeasurable Cities | Spring 2022
with Yasmine Katkhuda
Critic | Emanuel Admassu

Narratives of Dispossession is an attempt to imagine and practice ‘objection’ beyond property value. In colonial times, the slave functioned as a source of labor, chattel, and reproduction for the master in as well as the general economy at both private and public levels. Rowland’s work transports a public labor force as a practiced phenomenon to the present existence. Shifting the focus from subjects in subjectivizations and from persons to situations, Rowland highlights the forces that shape, produce, and structure.

In tracing, documentating, revealing and representing objects of labor production and extraction beyond the context of collecting and displacement, Rowland’s work combines research and strategic international agreements with the presentation of objects selected for their socially illuminating value. They exclude those objects that are markers of current historic, stripping the objects of their narration, and positioning them as relics of structural racism. Narratives of Dispossession thus calls for speculation of a different kind, to pose a question: can human rights be organized beyond the norm of domination?
TRAVELING
DAAR x Cameron Rowland

Immeasurable Cities | Spring 2022
with Yasmine Katkhuda

Critic | Emanuel Admassu

Camps are constructed as non-permanent sites for shelter in response to influx of people (political or climate change), and are based on financial and material considerations. People often expect stability, but are growing increasingly permanent and are generally not expected to be permanent in the future. When once transient structures have been replaced by urbanization and cityscapes, when allowing shifts in society to support a sustainable future, cities are immortal and permanent.

Speculation on their disappearance and destruction, and propagation of camp dwellings as ephemeral, short-term, and temporary means of survival and support of urban development, are a method found in urban development. They are often used by the homeless, and the cityscape is formed by narratives of poverty, displacement, and destruction. Urban violence and socioeconomic destruction are on the rise. Beyond narratives of safety and displacement, the cityscape is often transformed through narratives of conflict and violence.

The narrative of the past and the present is complex and layered, with elements of tradition and modernity coexisting. The cityscape is formed by narratives of poverty, displacement, and destruction. Urban violence and socioeconomic destruction are on the rise. Beyond narratives of safety and displacement, the cityscape is often transformed through narratives of conflict and violence.