The Seven Line subway connects the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the world. 47% of Queens population is Foreign-born immigrants. While the seven line is a large connector of different cultures, it also reveals the inequitable income patterns along neighborhoods within the city.

“What does it mean when several communities join together to form a collective power and purchase a piece of infrastructure or Right of Way?” We aim to protect this community with a framework capable of providing spatial agency; we celebrate local culture, support an entrepreneurial coalition and strengthen a sense of place and belonging for the immigrant community.
Looking at the 7 line, an inequitable income patterns along neighborhoods within the city is significant. As an example, on one end is Hudson Yards, a wealthy district recently developed for over 20 billion dollars, while Flushing and Corona have remained bustling immigrant communities facing displacement and poverty.
After doing our research, we have reached out to the local community to better understand their stories. After conducting the interviews, we got a better understanding of the community needs. One of the main issues such communities are facing is displacement. New developments are moving into the neighborhood which has increased commercial rents rendering this unaffordable for local immigrant owned businesses. At the other end of the 7 Line, both Corona and Flushing fall below the Poverty line and reflect a common reality of economic insecurity.
We propose a new community land trust model, utilizing underdeveloped and vacant lands along the 7 line to provide agency to small business owners and to further mitigate financial struggle. Partnering with MTA and DOT, we propose a new community owned R.O.W framework.

These spaces acquired by CLT are designated for small business owners, providing public amenities, business opportunities and community resources.

Along the 7th line, our concept is to create a social-economic system using the underdeveloped spaces as well as the existing infrastructural system. Three larger system anchor points are located at the intersections between the 7 line and the waterfront, the Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and the open spaces at the neighborhood edge of Corona. Smaller-scaled interventions are dispersed along the 7 line. Each anchor points have different emphases, while together serving as a supportive network for the immigrant-owned small businesses for their economic development and wellbeing to form a stronger sense of community and ownership.

Relating back to the physical context of the site, the first anchor point aims to create better commercial spaces for local small business owners and vendors, forming a community center for the small business owner, including programs such as language and skill training, relaxation spaces for their wellbeing, as well as community support groups.
At Flushing, the sidewalk is expanded and streetscape is improved to attract more people to come both in the day and night. The open rooftop dining spaces are going to benefit some of the food vendors and small local restaurants as well. In night time there are still many activities going on on the street. Night market and many traditional festival can happen here, keeping the community members engaging in public events and also attracting people from other part of the city to enjoy the cultural exchange here.
The diverse ethnic identity is what we, the community board, always want to preserve and celebrate. The affordable housing are customizable and flexible with the base architecture provided by the designers and the neighborhood can actually customize their house base on their needs and cultures. The diverse cultural identities being preserved and expressed from the architecture and the flexibility that it provide to accommodate the residents' needs.
Community Through Domesticity

Cabbagetown: Atlanta After Property

Cabbagetown, Atlanta, Georgia | Spring 2022
GSAPP urban design studio
instructors: Emanuel Admassu, Nina Cooke John, Chat Travieso, Lexi Tsien
partners: Jie Kong, Jake Tiernan, Sdynee Sampson

Cabbagetown is an artsy neighborhood with cozy eateries in Atlanta nowadays while it used to be a mill village established by the mill workers in 1886. However, as the mill shutdown, owners sold many of the factory homes out from under residents. Investors seeking to make Cabbagetown a “Gingerbread Village” bought up properties, which then sat vacant due to speculation and transforming the homes into AirBNBs.

We envision a future for Cabbagetown where property is not the central pillar of domesticity. Legacy residents can return, while also inviting those who need it. Semi-nomadic occupation of houses will expand domesticity beyond property and blood relations to the community at large.
The Cherokee family structure was matrilineal, meaning children joined their mother's clan and rarely saw their fathers. Domestic relations were based on communal ties rather than household ones, with extended family and clan members flowing freely between houses as needed.

Europeans introduced more rigid domesticity, with women expected to stay home and provide childcare while men work. The domestic became grounded to the property one inhabits and immediate blood relations rather than communal ties.

The mill was constructed in Cabbagetown in 1886, and further expanded on European domesticity. Single-family housing was created and rented to workers, with many including multiple generations under one roof.

However, as the mill shutdown, owners sold many of the factory homes out from under residents. Investors seeking to make Cabbagetown a "Gingerbread Village" bought up properties, which then sat vacant due to speculation and transforming the homes into AirBNBs.

Whereas the Cherokee lived in an arrangement where the domestic flowed throughout the community, domesticity in Cabbagetown was confined to the walls of mill housing. This reliance on property as the central pillar of domesticity erased territorial and extended family ties, all while allowing the domestic sphere to become a speculative industry. Extra beds, rooms, and even houses became commodities to leverage rather than spaces to share.
domestic sphere as a shared resource for the community

Adaptation and transformation of the typical shotgun house floor plan allow different uses of the space and various degrees of openness. With sliding doors placed at the facade and interior wall, a fluid circulation can be created from front to the back, from alley to alley. The flexible interior organization created by the sliding and folding walls generate different degrees of porosity, and these interior arrangements can be determined by the spatial needs for the occupants.
The extension of the domestic beyond the bounds of the house encourages new familial structures, in which relations are based on community ties rather than blood.

The new extended family can occupy this space differently, flowing freely between the house and the landscape as they gather, share meals, and celebrate Cabbagetown. The Cabbagetown family also provide for one another wherever needed, be it food, services, or childcare.
The notion of the street and porch continues to evolve inside the mill. Balconies on the mill become like the porch, while the hallways become the backyards. The folding and sliding walls at each floor also give the space flexibility that breaks the traditional apartment floor layout to create fluidity that allows for single resident occupation or production.

This new domestic structure unfolds the neighborhood, where the interior can be turned exterior, backyards become front porches, and streets can be used for group activities or production, etc. The distinction between and the definition of spaces become ambiguous, and a semi-nomadic lifestyle arises.

At the end, we imagine this semi-nomadic lifestyle in Cabbagetown is going to thrive and spread out to other communities in Atlanta.
Industries and development in Belize has heavy reliance on its natural bio-riches. However, due to lack of regulations and enforcement, natural resources are being exploited and rapidly deteriorating.

ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management)
"Coastal planning is the process used to make better decisions about the use of the coastal zone. It allows for consideration of many different uses of the coastal zone at once which allows for better decisions about uses and reduces potential conflicts that may arise from overlapping sectors."

Water Rangers and IW/CZM
CZMAI’s current coastal development strategy can be enhanced with the watershed management – the added layer of a development strategy in the context of the watershed rather than current district boundaries.

The new mission transforms to Integrated Watershed / Coastal Zone Management, IWCZM in short.
Water pollution has cost a massive decrease in coral coverage from 60-70% to 5-10% in places.

Belize has 33 watersheds of which 17 are major watersheds.

15% of all households are connected to a sewer system, 35% of them use septic systems.

7,200,000 gallons of wastewater was produced by tourism per month in 2010.
there are three distinctive sectors on our site. Ridge, corresponding to farming activities inland. Roof, indicating the Seine Bight community on the Placencia Paninsula, and Reef, relating to tourism activities which greatly impact environmental health.

farming
80% domestic export

garifuna
17,000 garinagu

tourism
34% employed

housing
42% poverty rate

pollution
solid waste, farm waste, human waste

coral bleaching
40% damage from 1998

inequitable economy
-400% in GDP-DE growth ratio
Our overall design strategies are to monitor and filter the current watershed and to mitigate for future threats of our site.
Currently, each sector interacts with the government policies independently with little effort in developing congruently.

The Water Ranger program developed alongside ICWZM provides a model for unifying the sectors with a coalition.

The Stann Creek district boundary is slowly transforming into the watershed boundary as the root of solutions.

The Water Ranger program will be led by someone with ample knowledge, such as Mr. Pepe Garcia. We can foster a team made of local citizens, corporate representatives, volunteers, and local industry students to monitor pollution, develop plans for future watershed growth, and enforce existing water protection policies.

Our designed support structure splits into three parts, monitoring locates the source of the problem and enforces policy, filtration actively tries to solve the problem, and mitigation sets up infrastructure for future. The water rangers are integrated throughout the design applications, with specific personelles targeting each sectors.

how does it work long term?

what are our actions?

Policy

Issues

Monitor

Filtration

Mitigation

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Housing & Land Monitoring Station

Reef

Human Waste

Solid Waste

Eel Farming

Shrimp Farming

Tropical Coral Disease

Streamflow Collection

Coral Bleaching

Early Warning System

Belize Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI)

Kalene Eck

Water Ranger - Mitigation Officer & Resistance Officer

“Shrimp farm filtration system exist, but the head of the shrimp and the filters, where do they go?”

John

Water Ranger - Volunteer Surveyor

[Belize] Science Department, Faculty of Science & Technology, University of Belize, Natural Resource Management Program

Josué Aké

Water Ranger - Quality Control Officer

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01 Ridge - Shrimp Farm
An algae farm that filtrates nitrate and salinity issues created by fertilizer is introduced. Algae collected on-site will be transported to Seine Bight for bio-fuel. Monitoring towers will also be located at the inlet and outlet of the farm.

02 Roof - Seine Bight Community
The design intends to build biofuel facilities alongside continuous education for residents. Locally, septic tanks are built connecting to biomass refinery. Wastewater treatment plant will integrate with the community and education center.

03 Reef - Coral Reef
The coral shield are installed to block sargassum. Floating water monitoring stations indicate water contamination and alerts rangers.
01 Ridge - Shrimp Farm
Algae Farms & Monitoring Towers

02 Roof - Seine Bight Community
Biorefinery & Monitoring Center

02 Roof - Seine Bight Community
Water Filtration & Community Center

03 Reef - Coral Reef
Coral Shield & Monitoring Stations
Algae farming modules and monitoring towers are first implemented on our site. In 2050, as the community builds economic and social wealth, a long-term managed retreat can take place where housing plots are being prepared in conjunction with government plans. 2080, as the sea level rises and endangers the current seine bight village, the upland will grow together in residents, more incorporated tourism activities, and diversified job opportunities.