



DREAMING THE RUINS

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Deconstruction

Adaptation

Studio Pedagogy

Defining Urban Agency as the capacity to act from an understanding of the urban context as the dynamic interaction of social, ecological and material infrastructures, students in the Urban Agency Capstone Project Studio will develop critically informed, compelling, and transformative architectural proposals that positively contribute to infrastructures of social, ecological and other forms of equity in urban contexts. The priority of this semester is the development of a detailed design that demonstrates an ability to manifest latent potentials and/or reveal and problematize conditions—of a social, ecological and other systems—through architecture while also serving as the basis of a personal position on the discipline of architecture and its trajectory.

Project Statement

The continuous development of land, the expansion of maritime transportation, and the growth of industry along the waterfront led to a restriction of recreational access to these areas. The central concept of this project is to create spaces that enable a dialogue between humans and nature, facilitated by innovative architectural designs. Historically, our actions towards nature have been self-serving and one-sided, involving activities such as deforestation, detrimental development, and pollution. In the context of Port Morris, the methodology involves ‘unbuild,’ ‘managed retreat,’ and ‘participatory design.’ These approaches offer distinct phases of conversation, allowing humans and nature to perceive, inquire, investigate, and develop a mutual understanding. Rather than resisting rising sea levels with engineering, the idea is to let the area surrender to flooding in a purposeful manner.

Critical Case Studies

Gordon Matta Clark - Conical Intersect, 1975, 16mm, color film.

Natalie Jeremijenko - Amphibious Architecture

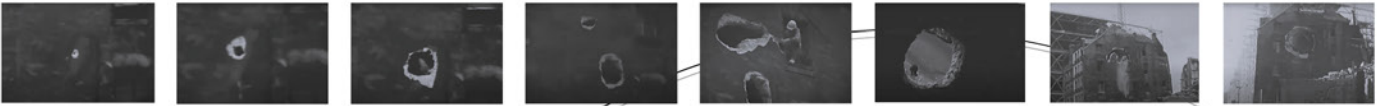
Yusuke Obuchi - The Wave Garden

Undergraduate Final Capstone Presentation Board 36x120 in.

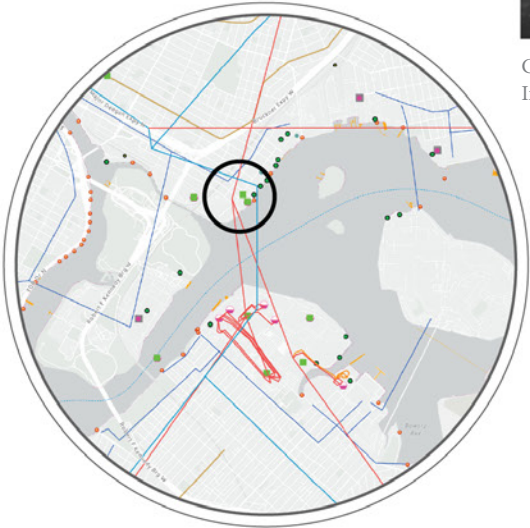
Top white space showing process and concept,
Bottom blue space showing initial design submerged under water.

Exhibition curated with ipad and models integrated to the board.

Gordon Matta Clark, Conical Intersect
Dismantling existing architecture form to create new spatial experience.



Gordon Matta Clark, still from film of Conical Intersect, 1975, 18 minutes, 16mm, color film.

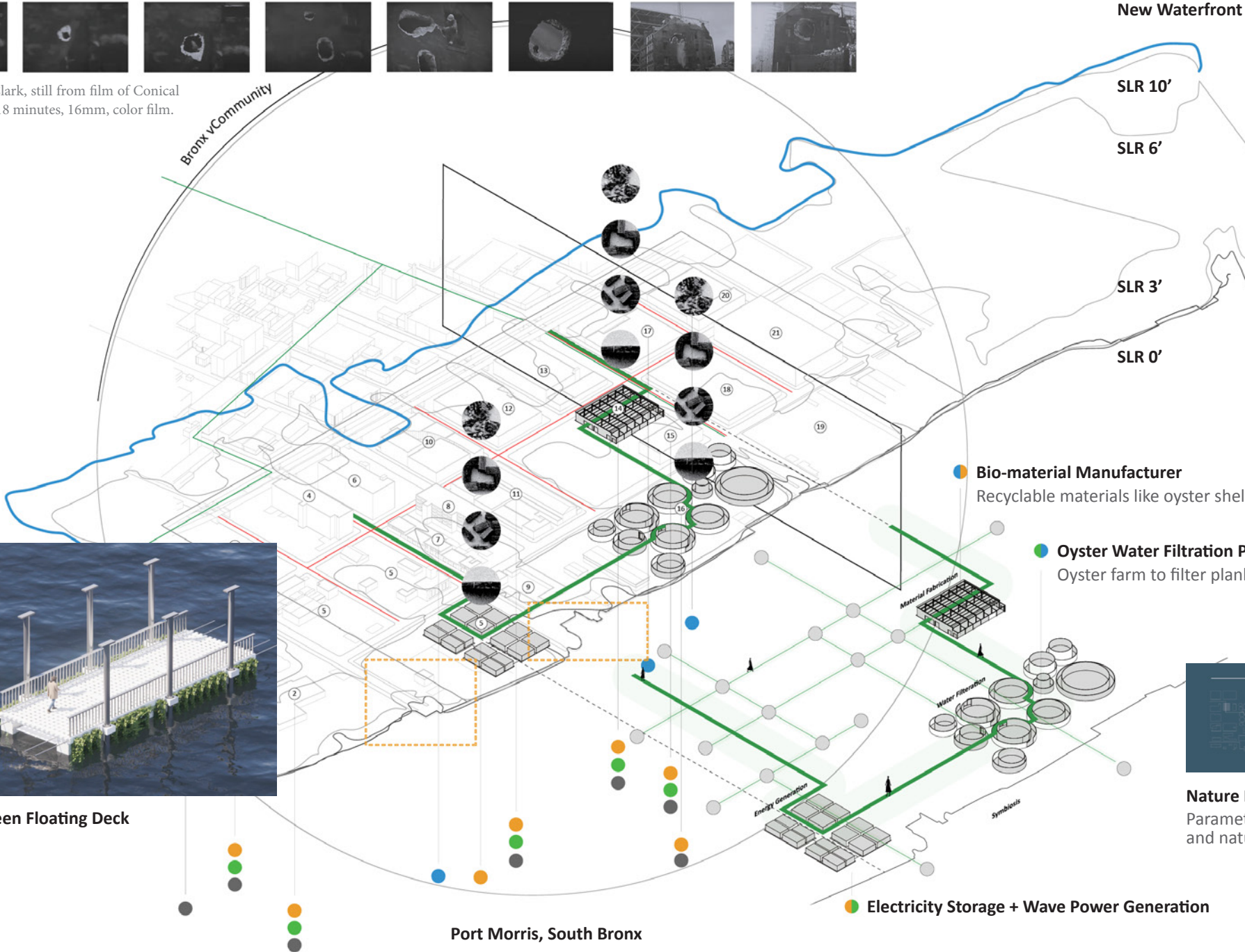


Human

- Critical Infrastructure
- Waste Management
- Diesel Truck Reliant
- Manufacturer
- Potential Growth
- Bike Route
- Major Truck Route
- Green Floating Deck
- Historic Landmark



Green Floating Deck



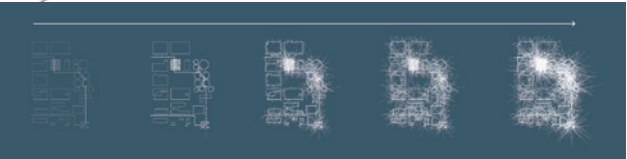
Port Morris, South Bronx



Nature

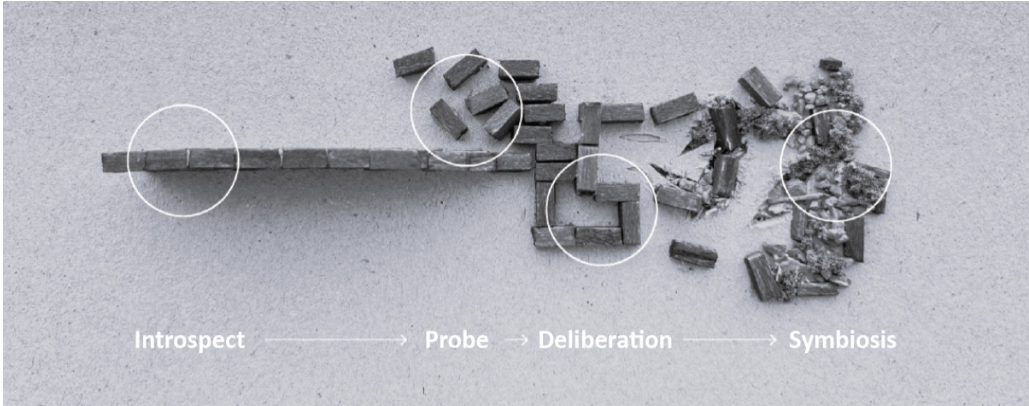
Bio-material Manufacturer
Recyclable materials like oyster shells will be processed to create ecological materials

Oyster Water Filtration Plant
Oyster farm to filter plankton and contaminants and provide clean water



Nature Maintaining Itself
Parametric simulation illustrating sediment movement and natural vegetation growth

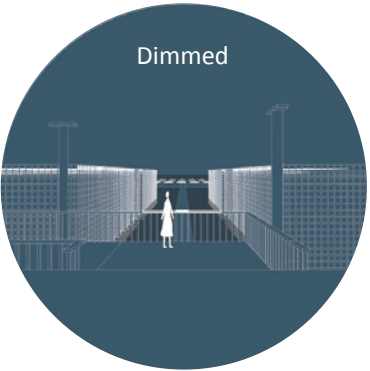
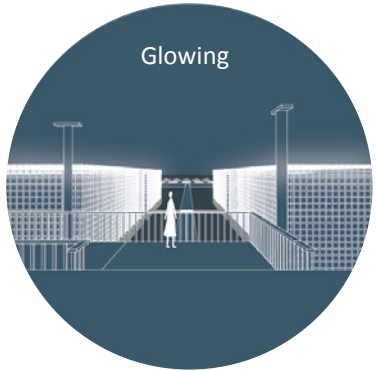
Electricity Storage + Wave Power Generation



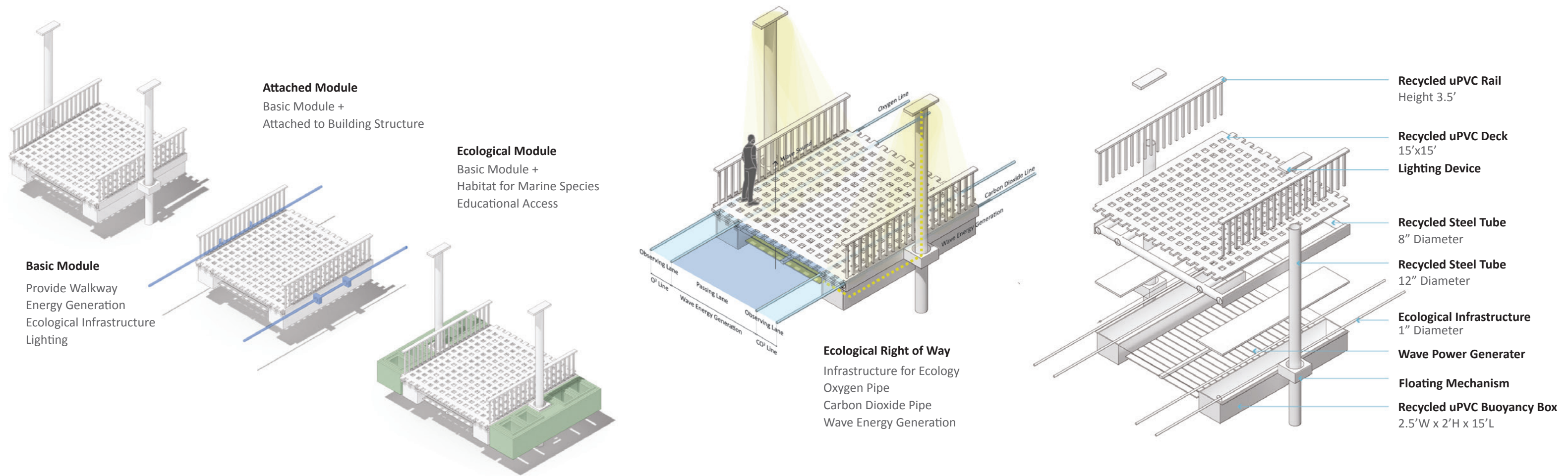
Concept Model Development

Historically, our actions towards nature have been self-serving and one-sided, involving activities such as deforestation, detrimental development, and pollution.

This methodology involves dismantling to offer distinct phases of conversation; Introspect, Probe, Deliberation, and Symbiosis, allowing humans and nature to perceive, inquire, investigate, and develop a mutual understanding.



Building as Interactive Device
Visualizing energy generation



Visible Rust
Current Tide Level

Building as Memory Device

Corrugated Oil Tank Marking Sea Levels. This becomes an educational device which people who passes by starts to understand the rhythm of nature. Advocate to embrace flux, not permanence.

