

DESIGN in the terrain of water

SYMPOSIUM / EXHIBITION / CONVERSATION

APRIL 1 - 2, 2011

Water is everywhere before it is somewhere. It is in rain before it is in rivers, it soaks before it flows, it spreads before it gathers, it blurs before it clarifies. These are waters at moments in the hydrological cycle that are not easy to picture in maps or contain within lines. It is ephemeral, transient, uncertain, interstitial, chaotic, omnipresent. It is water to which people are increasingly turning to find innovative solutions to water scarcity, pollution, aquifer depletion and other problems that are assuming center stage in local and global politics, dynamics, and fears. It is also water that is celebrated and ritualized in ordinary and everyday practices across many cultures.

It is surely not a coincidence that the turn to these waters, that resist the figure and the frame, is occurring when design disciplines are beginning to embrace measures such as flexibility, agility, and resilience, measures more closely associated with a watery imagination, while becoming circumspect of aspirations like prediction and control encouraged by a terra firma, aspirations that have proved elusive, perhaps even detrimental. This is after all a time of uncertainty and ambiguity brought on by increasing openness of economies, cultures, and ecologies.

Is this time of water and watery imagination a moment to re-invent our relationship with water? Is it a time to look to the past, present and future and ask if in seeing water somewhere rather than everywhere we have missed opportunities, practices and lessons that could inform and transform the design project? What role has representation and visualization played in confining water on terra firma? Can we look at projects in history and projects emerging today cities, infrastructures, buildings, landscapes, artworks with a cultivated eye for water that rains, soaks, spreads, and blurs?

What is it to see water as not within, adjoining, serving or threatening settlement, but the ground of settlement? Is this the basis of a new vocabulary of place, history, ecology and other fields that inform the design process? And can the field of design by virtue of its ability to articulate and re-visualize lead in constructing this new vocabulary?

_ ANURADHA MATHUR / DILIP DA CUNHA

Symposium at PENNDESIGN: April 1 - 2, 2011

Conversations and presentations will be organized around:

design **ACTIVISM / ADVOCACY** in the Terrain of Water

design **STRUCTURE / INFRASTRUCTURE** in the Terrain of Water

design **IMAGING / IMAGINING** in the Terrain of Water

Terrain of Water Team_

director _ **ANURADHA MATHUR** co-director / organizer _ **CATHERINE BONIER**

exhibition coordinator / designer _ **YADIEL RIVERA DIAZ** symposium coordinator _ **DIANE PRINGLE**

symposium assistant _ **MICHELLE LIN** exhibition assistant _ **JESSICA BALL**

student exhibition assistants _ **LAURA LO + NICOLA MCELROY**

Advisors_

Dean Marilyn Jordan Taylor, David Leatherbarrow, Dilip da Cunha, William Whitaker

THURSDAY MARCH 31
PennDesign Opening Events

2.00 **BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE/ TERRAIN OF WATER POSTER CONTEST (Dean's Alley)**

design **IMAGING / IMAGINING** in the Terrain of Water

Penn Design Black Student Alliance is sponsoring a poster contest on the Terrain of Water theme. **This contest is open to all students.** Submissions must be posted in Dean's Alley by 2pm on March 31st. Winners will be announced at happy hour on Friday, April 1.

2.00-4.30 **TERRAIN OF WATER STUDENT WORK EXHIBIT + DISCUSSION (Lower Gallery)**

design **RESEARCH / PEDAGOGY** in the Terrain of Water
[free and open to the public]

*What do particular methodologies and inquiries conceal or reveal about water and terrain?
How does the study of a particular scale or place work within these different approaches?
What are our aspirations and frustrations? What are we learning and what are we inventing?
How can we use these methods and tools?*

2:00-2:15 presentations: M'Closkey, Weiss, Falck
2:15-2:30 conversation/questions

2:30-2:45 presentations: Mathur/ daCunha, Kieran/ Timberlake, Gouverneur
2:45-3:00 conversation/questions

3:00-3:15 presentations: Corner, Steinberg/ Nairn, Spirn
3:15-3:30 conversation/questions

3:30-3:45 presentations: Neff, Fierro
3:45-4:30 closing discussion/questions

5.00-6.00 **BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE/ TERRAIN OF WATER POSTER JUDGING (Dean's Alley)**

design **IMAGING / IMAGINING** in the Terrain of Water

A selection of faculty will judge entries to the BSA poster contest.

6.30-9.00 **BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE FILM NIGHT - 'If God is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise' (Meyerson B1)**

design **ACTIVISM / ADVOCACY** in the Terrain of Water

6.30-6.45 Brief introduction and discussion

6.45-8.30 Film screening 'If God is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise'

Spike Lee's epic story of the rebirth of the Big Easy that serves as a follow up to 'When the Levees Broke.'

8.30-9.00 Post film discussion

FRIDAY APRIL 1

Breakfast + Registration 8.30-9.00

9.00-9.15 **Dean Marilyn Jordan Taylor + Anuradha Mathur**

9.15-10.15 design **ACTIVISM / ADVOCACY** in the Terrain of Water

Conversation framed by moderator, Dean Marilyn Jordan Taylor

Experience + Experiments, Activism + Government

Teng Chye Khoo _ From Scarcity to Opportunity

Mahadev Raman, Alan Greenberger, Teddy Cruz, Herbert Dreiseitl

10.30-12.30 design **STRUCTURE / INFRASTRUCTURE** in the Terrain of Water
[sponsored in part by PennDesign Black Student Alliance]

Dilip da Cunha _ waters everywhere

Kazi Ashraf _ water as ground

Teddy Cruz _ politics of water

Walter Hood _ everyday water

Herbert Dreiseitl _ working fluid

Nancy Levinson (discussant)

LUNCH 12.30-1.30

1.30-2.45 design **IMAGING / IMAGINING** in the Terrain of Water
[sponsored by OLIN]

Lindsay Bremner _ Beach/ Bangladesh

Peter Hutton _ Study of a River, At Sea

Nataly Gattegno _ Aurora Project/ Arctic

Helene Furjan (discussant)

3.00-4.00 design **ACTIVISM / ADVOCACY** in the Terrain of Water

Catherine Bonier _ emblem, instrument, equilibrium

Anne Whiston Spirn _ West Philadelphia, Mill Creek, the future

Howard Neukrug (discussant)

4.00-6.00 **EXHIBITION OPENING _ GALLERY TALK + RECEPTION**
(Upper + Lower Gallery)

4.30-6.00 design **IMAGING / IMAGINING** in the Terrain of Water

Gallery Talk Conversation framed by moderator, Annette Fierro

David Brownlee, Charles Waldheim, Anne Whiston Spirn, Alison Hirsch

Nancy Levinson (discussant)

EVENING PRESENTATION (Meyerson B1)

6.00-7.15 design **STRUCTURE / INFRASTRUCTURE** in the Terrain of Water
[sponsored by the Department of Landscape Architecture]

James Corner

Kongjian Yu _ Ian L. McHarg lecture

SATURDAY APRIL 2

Breakfast + Registration 9.30-9.45

9.45-10.00 **Gathering Yesterday + Projecting Today _**
Yadiel Rivera Diaz + Catherine Bonier

10.00-11.30 design **IMAGING / IMAGINING** in the Terrain of Water

Simon Richter _ water worlds/ reading Faust
Doug Jerolmack _ tuning + constraints/ Mississippi Delta
Elizabeth Mossop _ Mississippi delta project
Hans Venhuizen _ long live limitations/ Netherlands
Christopher Marcinkoski + David Hsu (discussants)

11.45-1.00 design **ACTIVISM / ADVOCACY** in the Terrain of Water
[sponsored by the Penn Institute for Urban Research]

Ila Berman _ overabundance v. scarcity/ New Orleans + California
Ana Maria Duran _ contested flows/ Amazon basin
Christian Werthmann _ Pollution and Propaganda/ Cantinho do Céu Sao Pãulo
Eugenie Birch (discussant)

LUNCH 1.00-2.00

2.00-3.30 design **STRUCTURE / INFRASTRUCTURE** in the Terrain of Water

Marion Weiss _ cultural watermarks
Pietro Laureano _ traditional water practices/ Sahara
Diébédo Francis Kéré _ bridging the gap/ Europe + Africa
Randall Mason (discussant)

3.45-5.15 design **STRUCTURE / INFRASTRUCTURE** in the Terrain of Water

David Leatherbarrow
Iñaki Echeverria + Dr. Margarita Gutiérrez _ Texcoco Lake
Tilman Latz _ from engineered to poetic waters

EVENING PRESENTATION (Meyerson B1)

5.30-6.30 design **ACTIVISM / ADVOCACY** in the Terrain of Water

William Braham _ ecology + technology
John Todd _ water + the city

6.30-7.30 **RECEPTION + CLOSING REMARKS (Meyerson Upper Gallery)**
Dean Marilyn Jordan Taylor + Anuradha Mathur

*Unless otherwise noted, all events to occur in Lower Gallery,
School of Design, Meyerson Hall, 210 S. 34th St., Philadelphia.*

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