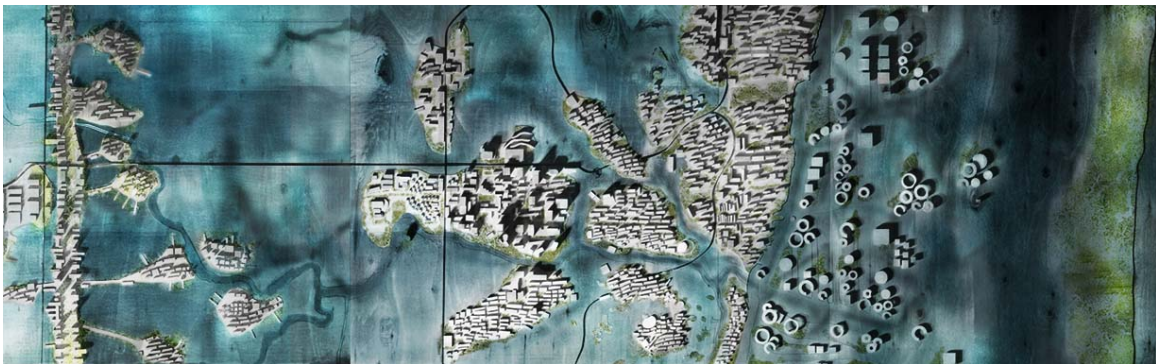


Urban Topographies: Sea-Level Rise and the Projection of South Florida's Future Coastal Urban Environments

Speculating on the future of urban environments, this project examines how communities in the South Florida region could evolve into vibrant, sustainable communities. The future survival of our cities will need to tailor urban growth to specific geographic, topologic, floras, and climate conditions, placing an emphasis on the integration of nature's role in urban resiliency. The above situation in South Florida necessitates human retreat and the repair of large areas of the region including the removal of structures and infrastructure, and the areas restoration to a natural state.

The urban fabric designated for future growth can best adapt through organizational patterns more responsive to climate; patterns that increase the efficiency of passive systems of human comfort integrated with building typologies that have proven more effective in hot, humid climates. Cities in South Florida will have to drastically reduce infrastructure through consolidation of their urban footprint in order to avoid fiscal disaster due to flooding. A strategy based on protection and adaption while intensifying the density of the urban core, and adopting multi-use programs in buildings ranging between three and eight stories allows for a sustainable economic base with an efficient use of infrastructure.

- The project study site is located in the city of Fort Lauderdale, in Broward County, Florida.
- The research's strategic hypothesis projects out 80 to 120 years.
- The study site is comprised of 26 sq. kilometers (10 sq. miles).



The physical project integrates existing bodies of water such as the New River and the Intracoastal Waterway and favors a system of navigable areas. This returning of the territory to water and natural habitat relies upon a mapping of topographical differences, assessing the value of properties, and a historic mapping of vegetation and water flow. The proposed range of conditions from island communities and hamlets, to an urban center and linear city, (formerly the Interstate 95), demonstrate how the area can adapt to climate changing factors and retain economic vibrancy.

In such a fragile region, pedestrian activity is favored over the vehicular. The advantages of pedestrian environments are well-founded and include bettering human health in atmospheres favoring public social engagement, an ecology that helps shape our natural and cultural identity.