

# Graduation Reflection

15 May 2024

Augusta Fiseryte  
5569982

TU Delft  
Borders & Territories  
Transient Liquidities along the New Silk Road III

Mentors:  
Negar Sanaan Bensi  
Pierre Jennen  
Oscar R.G. Rommens

My Graduation project responds to overlooked aspects of ecological trauma in the face of large man-made engineered landscapes and their construction. It brings contemporary spatial explorations that acknowledge the significance of the architectural agency. The project investigates the local, micro problematics and larger, macro events intertwined in the spatial realm.

I am creating architecture to discuss, explore, acknowledge, and criticize, as well as to suggest and consider its new norms in the face of new transformational environments and (dark) ecologies. I suggest ways to introduce science in the architectural playground, collaboration with other scientific disciplines and their gathered data. I aimed to expand the purpose of a space, as an educational tool to learn about the surrounding environment.

Extracts from the project's manifesto:

*Living Archive*

*It challenges Barro Colorado Island's physical (surrounded by water) and functional (dedicated island for scientific purposes) isolation and allows its borders to be transgressed by other visitors.*

*It addresses established Micro and Macro constructs and enhances the literacy of the site into a third, mediating scale.*

*It assembles a series of spaces that have a logic to reveal ecological conditions and non-remote sensing experiences.*

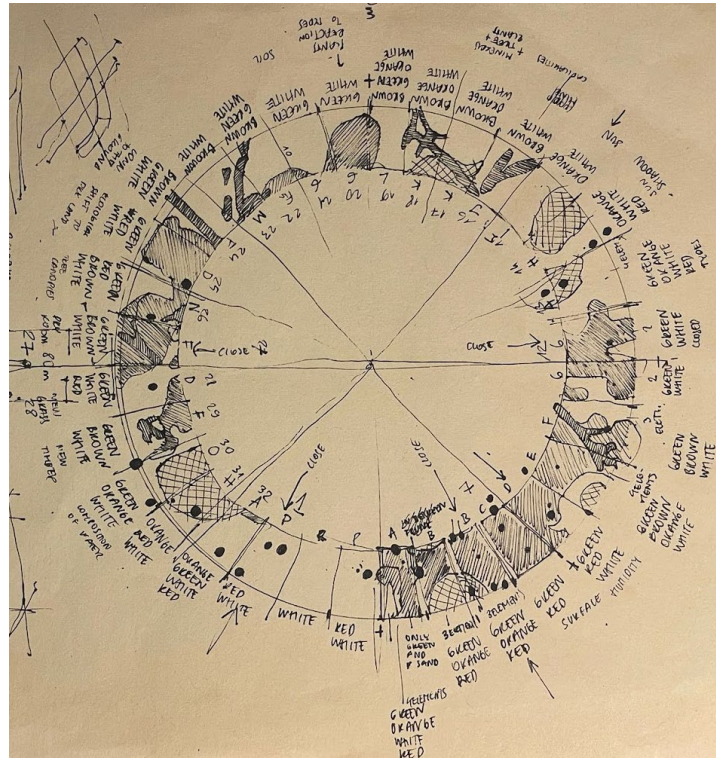
*It enhances the cyclicities and temporalities of the environment, appropriating its presence into a third scale.*

I inherited Manifesto as my compass for further graduation project development and its spatial explorations. I remained curious to mature a spatial response to the Gatun Lake and Barro Colorado Island setting. In other words, a man-modified landscape, that had obtained a special set of rules, regarding social status, gender, and literacy.

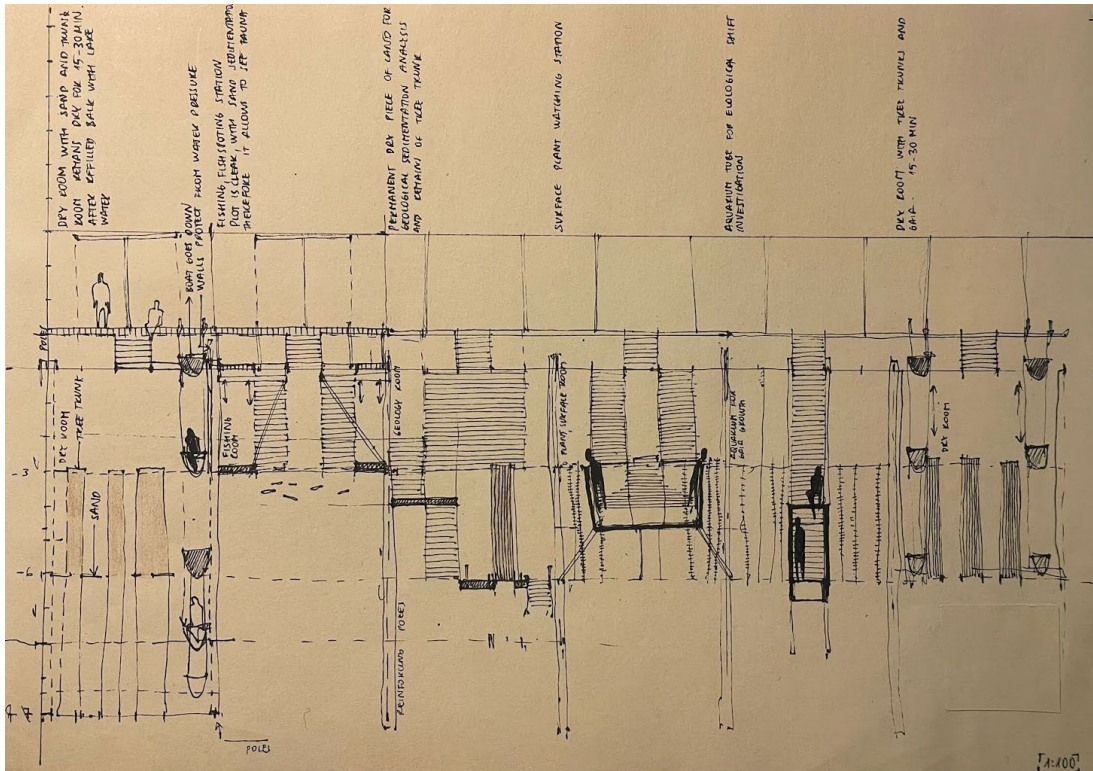
I studied scientific devices and methods that were used by scientists for the island exploration. These studies gave me an insightful scope of ways to learn and study Gatun Lake and Barro Colorado Island. Nevertheless, my further investigations were also supported by Donna Haraway's 'Situated Knowledge'. I aimed my architecture to become a spatial device to study the special condition of the Lake and beyond.

I received a diverse set of recommendations and pathways that I could have taken with my architectural approach. I tested and changed multiple spatial iterations, which helped me to develop something that acts as a pure response to my curiosity and my graduation questions. This meant that I was able to detach from my spatial demands and let the architecture advance based on the project's logic and needs.

To develop architecture, I proceeded to read the landscape of my site and progressed with spatial scenes based on the iterations of the site.



The project's structure became a physical “marking” of a space, indicating the significance of floral iterations and their uniqueness in each room. It developed into a passive mechanism, which enhances cyclic processes of rainwater collection, wind direction, and sun path movement. This led me to create a ‘living archive’ which responds to the ever-changing conditions of the site. Through a series of rooms, the structure curates a walk. The space is also accessed by boats from the opposite side of the island. Accessibility from both sides creates a new bridge, connecting both, scientists and local inhabitants. ‘Living Archive’ opens up a new conversation amongst the science residents and local inhabitants through a shared space experience.



I believe, that the architectural proposal has helped me to answer questions, I proposed in my graduation plan, such as:

*-What happens to the collected archive of the place, how should I treat the memory of the place? How do I document the present/future?*

*-How can spatial exercise engage in a better understanding of the locality of Panama and Gatun Lake, Barro Colorado Island, and its material entanglements?*

*-How to generate a third scale, that would become a mediating point between the Micro and Macro world and what is the agency of 3rd scale?*

At the end of the year, my theoretical curiosities were translated into a physical space. I was intrigued to elaborate on the structure as a material tool, to indicate, to unfold, to create access for people. In addition, I provided a space that responds as a canvas to cyclical shifts of nature.