



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

CONDENSATIONS Designing In Water Part 2 (of 3) Design and Value; Between Communities, Science and Innovation

Friday, March 24 2023

1:00pm-6:00pm

Pratt Institute Higgins Hall

Side Event #OS162

Organized by: Host - Pratt Institute. Co Hosts - Rebuild by Design, Water as Leverage. Academic Partners - University of Pennsylvania, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Universidad del Desarrollo, Anant National University, Harvard University. Industry Partners - Arcadis, Inhabit, Egis.

Background on the event

Pratt Institute hosted a three-part series of events on the occasion of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (UNWC). Layered upon one another, *Condensations Parts 1-3* examined how design and the built environment intersects with issues of permanent climate change and adaptation. The interactive discussions and workshop will focus on the role integrative design can have in holistically addressing and communicating water challenges with a specific focus on some of the most dense and vulnerable areas on the planet in the coming decade.

This second part consisted of three consecutive, moderated discussions, each with brief presentations and audience participation. Their combined goal was to examine the value of design in the development of nature-based green, gray, blue infrastructure in landscape, urban, architectural and hybrid projects. Presenters introduced examples from the US, Canada, France, Chile, India, Thailand and Singapore (among others). Each panel, including an array of cross sectoral participants, used one of three primary lenses for discussing and sharing work: Community, Science and Innovation

Key Issues discussed

- *Designing Water with Communities* (Lima Ponce, Shiffman, Voraakhom, Kuz, Maltby, Parker)
 - **Histories:** How communities, their vitality and sustenance (living with water) can contribute to and inform the design of adaptive frameworks.
 - **Cultures:** How methods and processes of engagement in the design of nature-based, scalable solutions can enrich communal relatedness
- *Designing Water In Science* (Westerhof, Recouvreur, McCoy Caretti, Alday, Elkin, Allard Serrano)
 - **Hydro_logics:** How various models, fluvial/coastal, can rapidly change and alter, requiring the need for agile, adaptable modular design thinking and planned obsolescence.
 - **Topo_logics:** How design strategies of elevated retreat can be adopted by using mixtures of science, economics and locally based models and narratives.
- *Designing Water Innovations* (Castro, Bouw, Singh, Bergmann, Erdman, Weiss)
 - **Kits Of Parts:** How provisional architectural, urban, landscape and infrastructural components can augment rapid, incremental strategies of retreat, adaptation and/or mitigation.
 - **Adaptations:** How natural and artificial urban archipelagos can serve as a test bed and bellwether for living in water in the second half of the Water Action Decade.

Water Action Commitment: [The Archipelago Agenda](#)

Over 50% of the fastest growing cities will be on islands by 2030 - only 7 years from now - and over one tenth of the world's population already lives in archipelagic regions and cannot retreat. Pratt Institute, Pace University and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) set a goal in 2022 of partnering with cross-sectoral stakeholders in New York City and Singapore, two of the most densely populated urban archipelagos in the world. Bringing together Engineering, Design, Science, Law and Business the three institutions have established the Center for Climate Adaptation.

As a network of centers, we pledge to work across institutions, between architecture, engineering, science, law and business, with local community partners and with industry partners to develop realizable, nature-based solutions in the coming five years. We will add one to two urban archipelagos a year to expand our research beyond Singapore and New York City. This will include (by 2024) the Chiloe and Patagonian Archipelagos in Chile and the Daman/Diu Islands in the Western coast of India, launching partnerships with Universidad del Desarrollo (UDD) and Anant National University (ANU) respectively.

Key recommendations for action

- **Weave:** Community, Science and Innovation are each necessary to inform and form value in any water challenged urban setting.
- **Test:** Testing, probing, phasing and learning are more valuable than solving in part due to the fact that the solution may be partially obsolete upon completion.
- **Seek:** Collaborative frameworks for continuous, input, stewardship and relatedness to foster the growth, vitality and ultimately the value of design propositions and solutions.