

ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY TERRITORY

(course B - 2023/2024; Camillo Boano, Michele Cerruti But, Daniela Ciaffi)

is

a critical architectural reading of the paradigms of sustainability in global contested territories

which

revolves around two fundamental questions

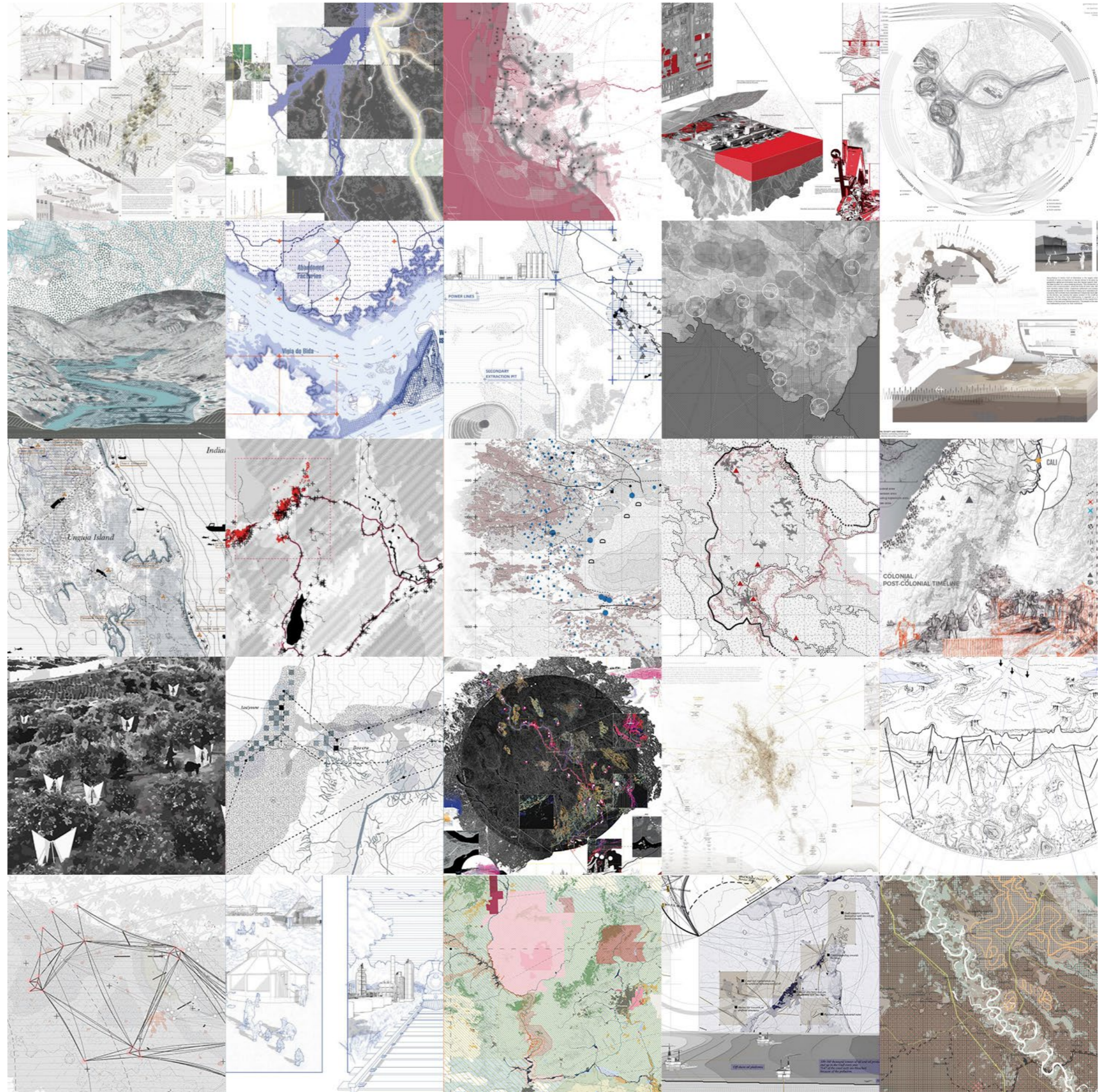
1. what is
the architecture of a
non-extractive, non-racist,
non-singular life?

2. what is the architectural
suspension needed to imagine
a planetary inhabitation that
confronts the uninhabitable
and its naturalized condition?

The design studio provokes a critical architectural reading of the paradigms of sustainability in global contested territories, in order to jettison the rubric of “environmental governance”, “sustainable development” and “resilience”. Embracing ecology as a system of relations rather than a set values, the Anthropocene as a problematic supra-human regime and the eco-logic global crisis as a provocation to move beyond modernity’s confining spatial and temporal imaginaries, while questioning the central operational foundations of architecture: capital and carbon.

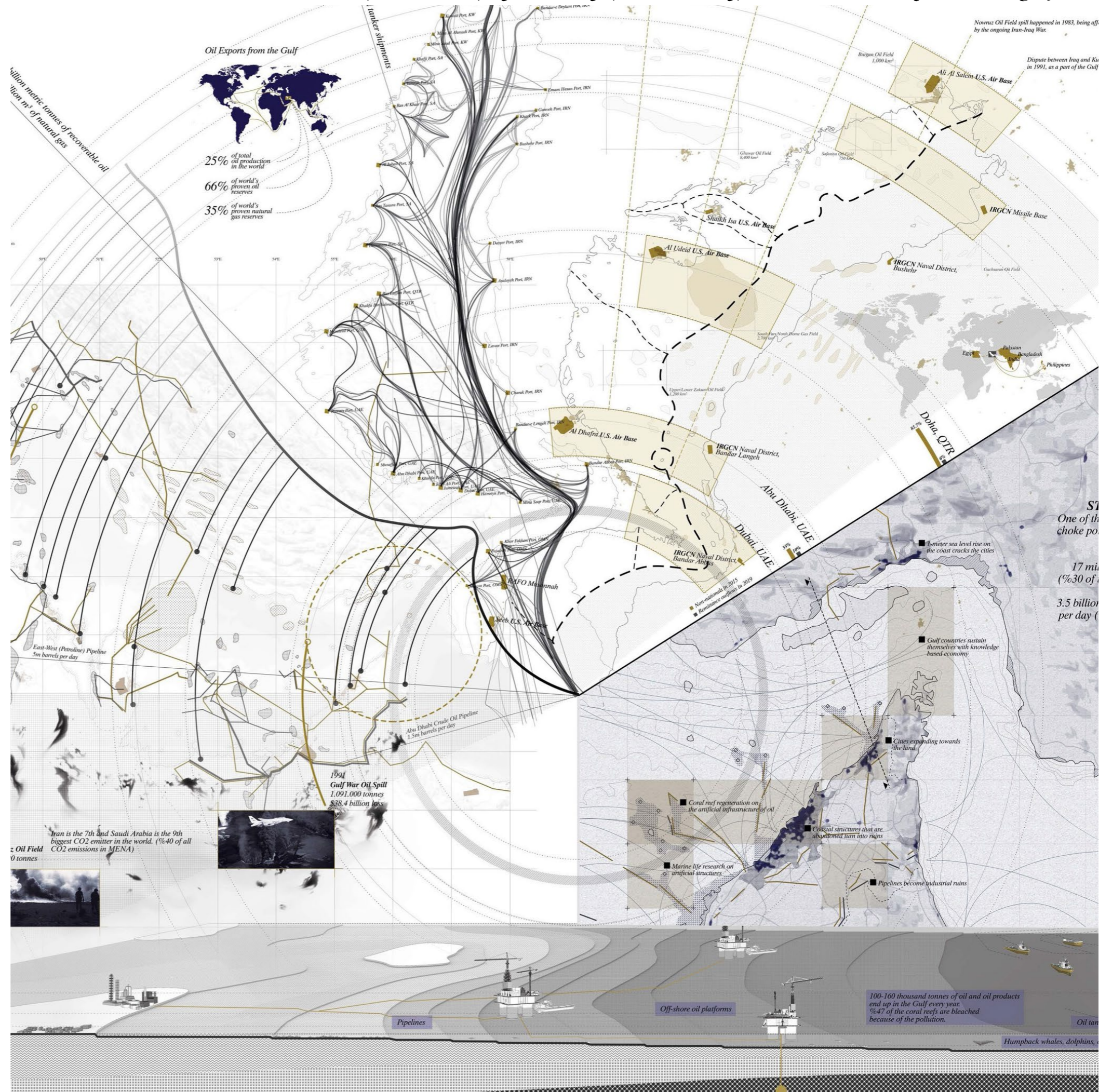
the course is structured in **14 weeks** of

- mandatory reading groups
- weekly assignments on the project
- tutor-led seminars and discussions
- presentations from former students
- two interim presentations
- lectures from guest scholars



the design project that emerges will take the form of spaces of possibilities, in the Anthropocene beyond the stale dichotomies of wild/domestic, pristine/degraded, human/animal, and move toward imagining an “otherwise” that sees human and nonhuman actors and relationships across a diverse range of spatial and temporal scales, in the form of imperfect, amphibious and companioning species. Instead of working through the reification of built form-and-function to “solve” climate collapse, the aim is to “stay with the trouble” and *imagine* future inhabitation through *otherwise*s to extractive logics. Such research-architecture projects are *not solutions, but investigations* forming an atlas of contested geographies, where precarious forms of life are constructed around frictions.

THE OUTCOME OF THE STUDIO IS NOT A BUILDING NOR A SOLUTION, BUT THE PROJECT FOR A NON-EXTRACTIVE, NON-RACIST, NON-SINGULAR OTHERWISE, BASED ON THE CRITICAL MAPPING OF TERRITORY, OF WHAT IS ALREADY THERE IN THE EXISTING CONDITIONS



Based on this, the design project that emerges will take the form of *spaces of possibilities*, beyond the stale dichotomies of wild/domestic, pristine/degraded, human/animal, and move toward imagining an “otherwise” that sees human and nonhuman actors and relationships across a diverse range of spatial and temporal scales, in the form of imperfect, amphibious and companioning species.

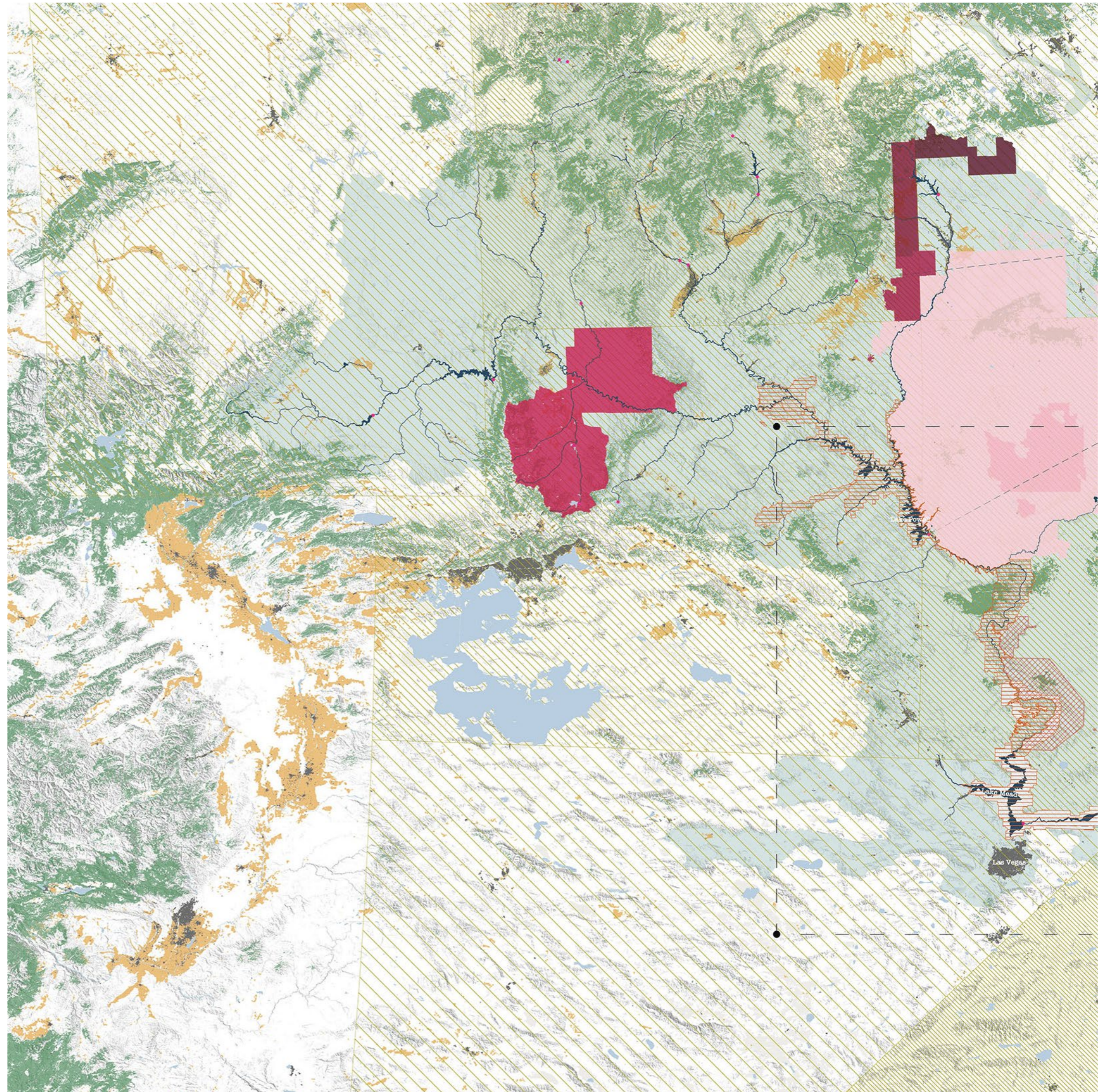
the course comprises two phases:

Part A – Spatial Vocabulary, or an Ecological Lexicon

The aim is to formulate *a new conceptual framework and vocabulary*, based on relevant literature in the field, while *mapping* such a concept on a specific territory.

Part B – The Infrastructure of Life, or Inhabiting the Uninhabitable

In this part, geo-historical cartographies and spatial narratives should be fully adopted to describe the ecological, social, and geopolitical tensions of the territories with the aim of *imagining*, with the tools of architectural research, what “*otherwise*” to exploitative and monolithic forms of life might look like.

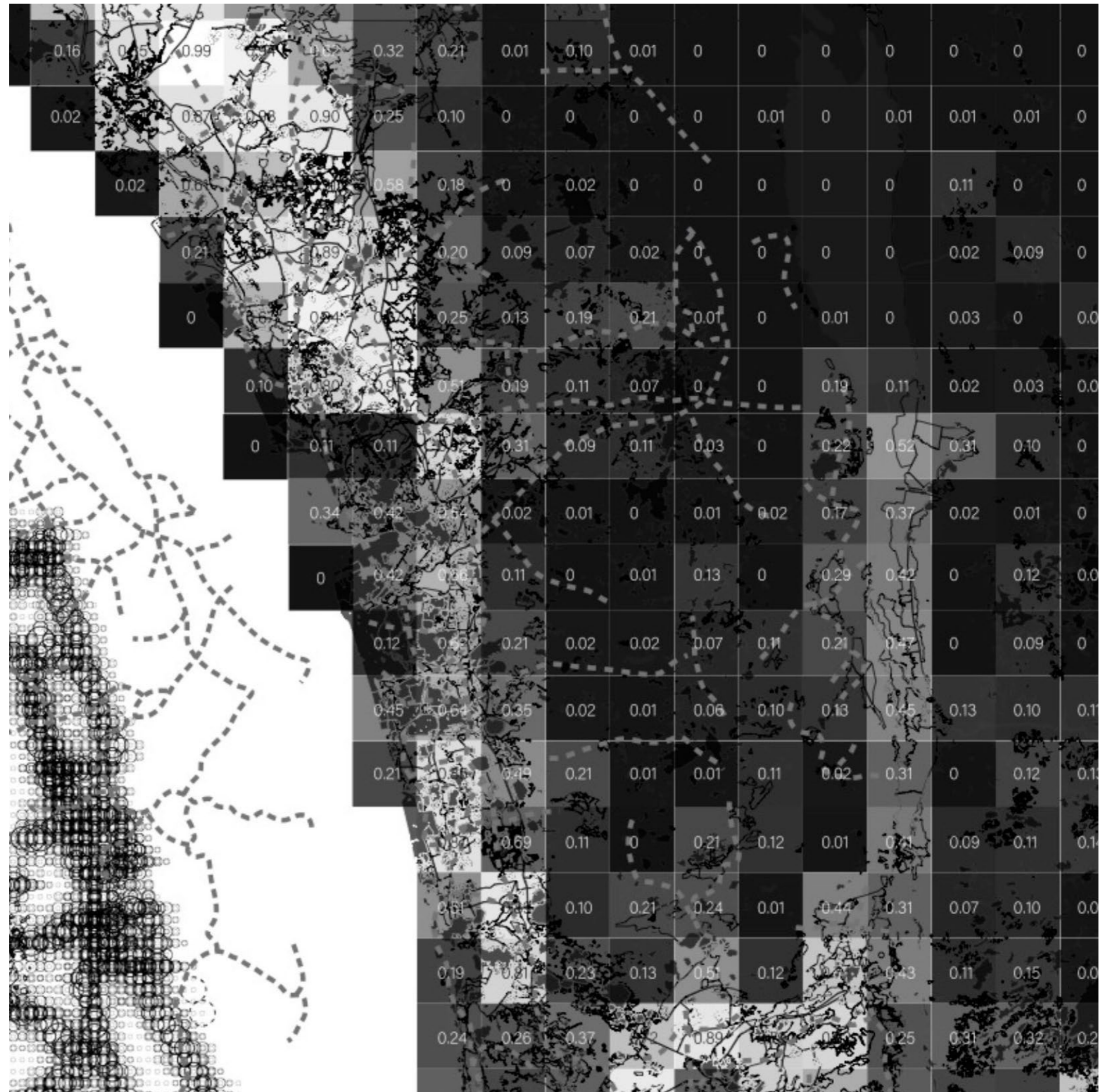


The first part of the term (A) will focus on the development of new spatial vocabularies and taxonomies borrowed from critical theory and territorial-ecological explorations at the global scale.

The assignment will move towards a more specific project-oriented exploration that each group will be conducting and that will be the object of the final examination. In this phase (B) students will have to develop a form of *critical mapping* that represent the territory they chose to work on, but also an “*artefact*”, that is, a physical model, object or installation that gives an adequate physical dimension to your work.

Artefact

Unlike previous years, groups for 2023-2024 are expected to turn the graphic elaborations of part A and part B into an *artefact* (physical model, object or installation). The artefact should be a tool of critical speculation and, in this sense, stand for the otherwise you are seeking to express. The artefact should be a conceptual *and* concrete tool to show, together with the panels, how the “system could be hacked”, “the script could be flipped”, “the dispositive could be deactivated”.

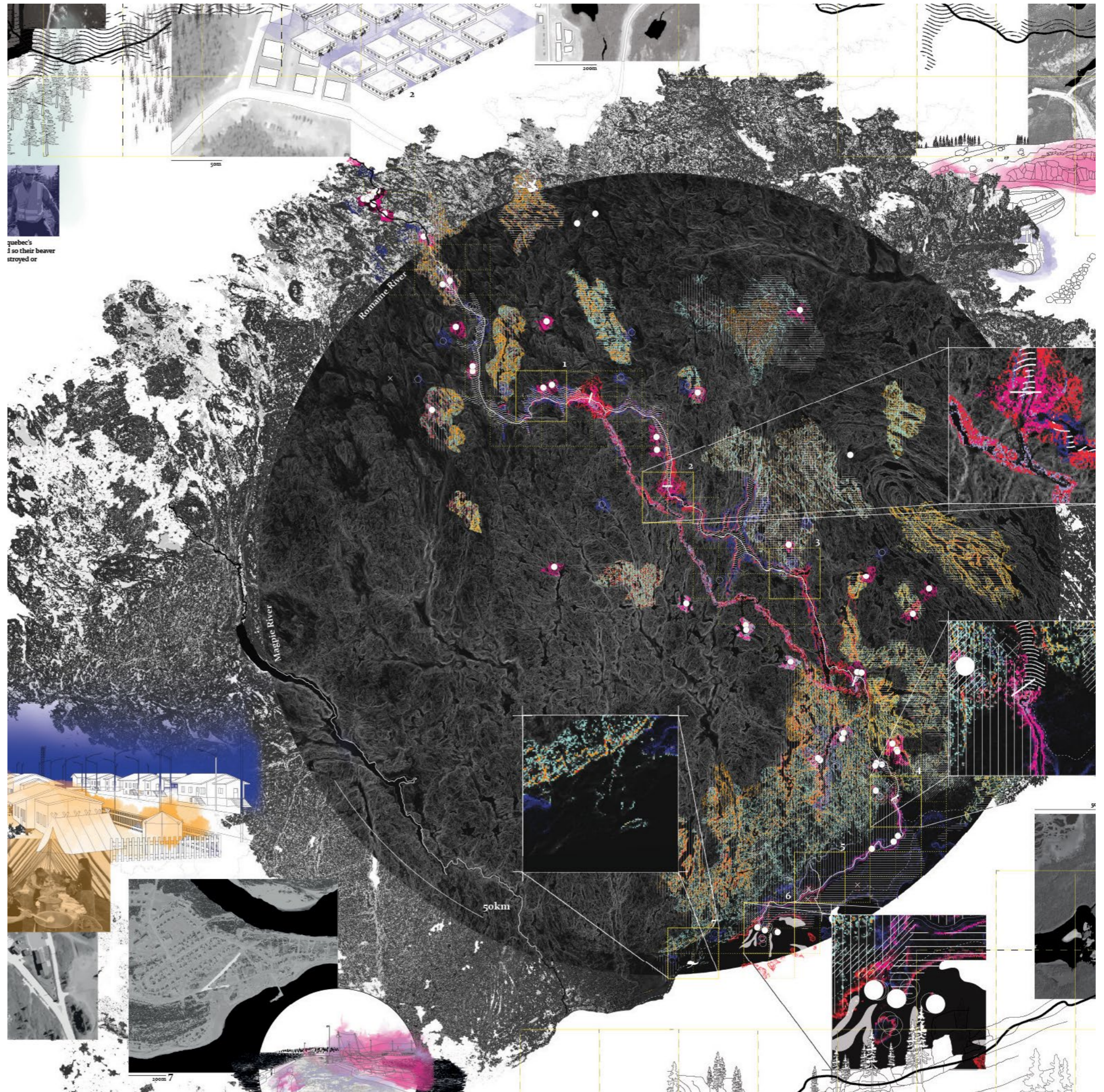


The design studio participants will work in groups (3-4 students), through a sequence of exercises, readings and territorial investigations organized in weeks, toward the elaboration of a final project. The international nature of the design studio will allow the exploration of multiple archives and actors, some of which will be suggested by the tutors, while allowing others to be formulated, researched and organized by each group. All three modules – *Architecture (Boano)*, *Urban Design (Cerruti But)* and *Sociology (Ciaffi)* – aim at investigating a single, all-encompassing research-project per group.

ALL MODULES WORK TOGETHER AS ONE DESIGN STUDIO

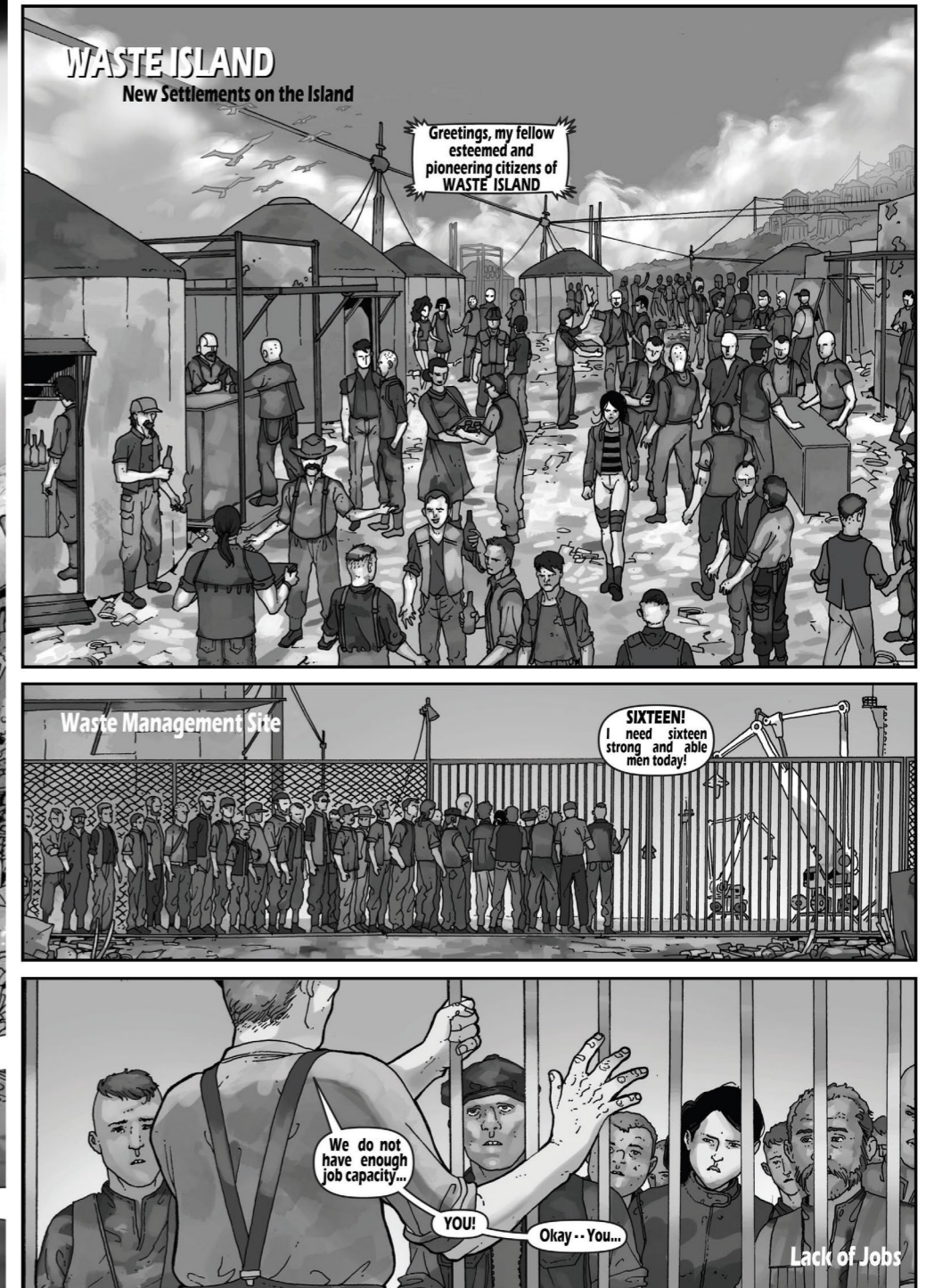
DEFINITION OF TERRITORY

the territory should highlight not only the complexity of planetary-global tensions and eco-geographical processes, but also show some form of contestation around space and politics. Note that by territory we include everything: land, sea and sky. The territory can be chosen in relation to the student's experiences and backgrounds, research and topic interests, architectural and urban specificities.



The module of Urban Sociology aims to provide some theoretical and methodological tools on the themes that have characterized the discipline during the twentieth century up to the present day. The vocational goal of the module is to learn how to set up a collaborative process by which local actors could be able to take care of tangible and intangible common goods. Social innovation is primarily intended as an innovation of the administrative law in support of local communities active to take care of cities and territories in the perspective of the general interest.

The urban sociology module includes a first theoretical part, a second methodological part and a third communicative part. The theoretical themes dealt with aim to provide a basic knowledge of the discipline starting from the authors whose works are fundamental to understand the relationship between “community action and planning” and the objects “common goods”. The methodological part aims to provide a basic knowledge of the main techniques of social sciences, in particular qualitative techniques, whose learning will be aimed at the drafting of presentations made by groups of students. The application part foresees a field work concerning cases study selected by the groups of students.



Guests

Three scholars will be invited to share their research and engage in a discussion with students.

Guests for 2021-2022 were:

Enora Robin, Urban Institute, University of Sheffield

Ihnji Jon, Melbourne School of Design

Tatjana Schneider, Department of Architecture, TU Braunschweig

Guests for 2022-2023 were:

Jon Goodbun, MA Environmental Architecture, Royal College of Art

Vineetha Nalla, Indian Institute for Human Settlements

Nishat Awan, Urban Laboratory, University College London

Guest for 2023-2024 TBD

Inhabiting future frictions. Confronting the climate collapse

This cycle of seminars discusses the role of architecture in questioning the challenge posed by the Capitalocene reflecting on climate urbanism and justice. Thinking critically through feminist and post-colonial approaches, political ecology, design theory and practice the talks elaborate on the creative potential of architecture.

The seminars have been organised as part of the course Architecture, Society and Territory (B) in the MSc in Architecture for Sustainability. The design studio aims to provoke a critical architectural reading of the paradigms of sustainability in global contested territories interrogating the supporting network of life that enables the inhabitation of the inhabitable and allows for imperfect and multiple forms of life to exist.

Link to all events: <https://didattica.polito.it/VClass/Frictions>

Enora Robin *Urban Institute, University of Sheffield (UK)*
Urban justice and the climate-friendly city

Friday 19 November 13.00 (CET)

Ihnji Jon *Melbourne School of Design (AU)*

Cities in the Anthropocene: Language, Experience, and Spatial Planning

Friday 26 November 10.00 (CET)

Tatjana Schneider *Department of Architecture, TU Braunschweig (DE)*
Climate emergency & the City

Friday 17 December 17.00 (CET)

The talks will be chaired and introduced by Prof. Camillo Boano
Organization and enquiries: Richard Lee Peragine richard.peragine@polito.it

Architecture, Society and Territory B team:
Camillo Boano, Michele Cerruti But, Daniela Ciaffi, Richard Lee Peragine, Filippo Fianzanese,
Giulia Marra, Andrea Alessio, Hani Fakhani, Belem Desmaison, Camilla Rondot, Immacolata Lamacchia

Msc in Architecture for Sustainability - Architecture, Society and Territory B 2021/2022



Inhabiting future frictions. Confronting climate collapse

This cycle of seminars discusses the role of architecture in questioning the challenge posed by the Capitalocene reflecting on climate urbanism and justice. Thinking critically through feminist and post-colonial approaches, political ecology, design theory and practice the talks elaborate on the creative potential of architecture.

The seminars have been organised as part of the course Architecture, Society and Territory (B) in the MSc in Architecture for Sustainability. The design studio aims to provoke a critical architectural reading of the paradigms of sustainability in global contested territories interrogating the supporting network of life that enables the inhabitation of the inhabitable and allows for imperfect and multiple forms of life to exist.

Link to all events:
https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.bbb_corsi.waitRoom?id=27675&p_tipo=DOCENTE

Jon Goodbun *MA Environmental Architecture, Royal College of Art (UK)*
Geopoiesis

Friday 25 November 14.30 (CET)

Vineetha Nalla *Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IN)*
Afterwards. Graphic Narratives of Disaster Risk and Recovery from India

Friday 2 December 13.30 (CET)

Nishat Awan *University College London, Urban Laboratory (UK)*
Atlas Otherwise

Friday 13 January 15.00 (CET)

The talks will be chaired and introduced by Prof. Camillo Boano
Organization and enquiries: Richard Lee Peragine richard.peragine@polito.it

Architecture, Society and Territory B team:
Camillo Boano, Michele Cerruti But, Daniela Ciaffi,
Richard Lee Peragine, Giulia Marra, Andrea Alessio, Igor Fardin, Hani Fakhani

Msc in Architecture for Sustainability - Architecture, Society and Territory B 2022/2023

