ARCHITECTURE AND THE FORCE OF NATURE: WORK IN PROGRESS

OVERVIEW
ARCHITECTURE AND THE FORCE OF NATURE: WORK IN PROGRESS considers the future of architecture, cities and transformation due to the preponderant forces of nature and natural disaster. We will address architecture in relationship to water's edge, infrastructure and urban redevelopment.

PROCEDURE
Theories of systems are examined and students asked to design solutions that are conceived of, performed as and critiqued as a system. How can systems aid in the reformulation of ideas about urban infrastructure, programmatic/social relationships, public space and site constructs? By studying models of organization that are evolutionary students are introduced to a multi-scalar and trans-disciplinary approach.

OBJECTIVE
The ambition of the studio is to critically revisit the strategy of "mat-building" and explore its potential to address contemporary discourses revolving around environmental hazard and catastrophe. Specific scenarios will reveal the urban ecosystem as a framework for exploring the proposition of a building that comprehends the site as a set of parameters that are alive and evolutionary and the project as a system that is reactive and adaptable.

FORMAT
The studio is structured in three modules. The process will entail the development of an ecologically based understanding of future development options; work as individuals on systems research to reveal site issues and latent site-program potentials and to develop critical insights and creative faculties; and then, in teams of 2-3, developing shared work through shared dialogue and a dynamic, 3-step process of feedback loops: Research/analysis —> Experimentation —> Application.

EVALUATION
The final grade is based upon a cumulative grading system; each of the three module's value is 30% of the overall studio grade; attendance is 10%.