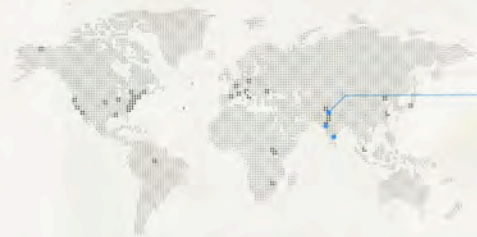


India Initiative

The Emergent Megacity and the Enduring Village

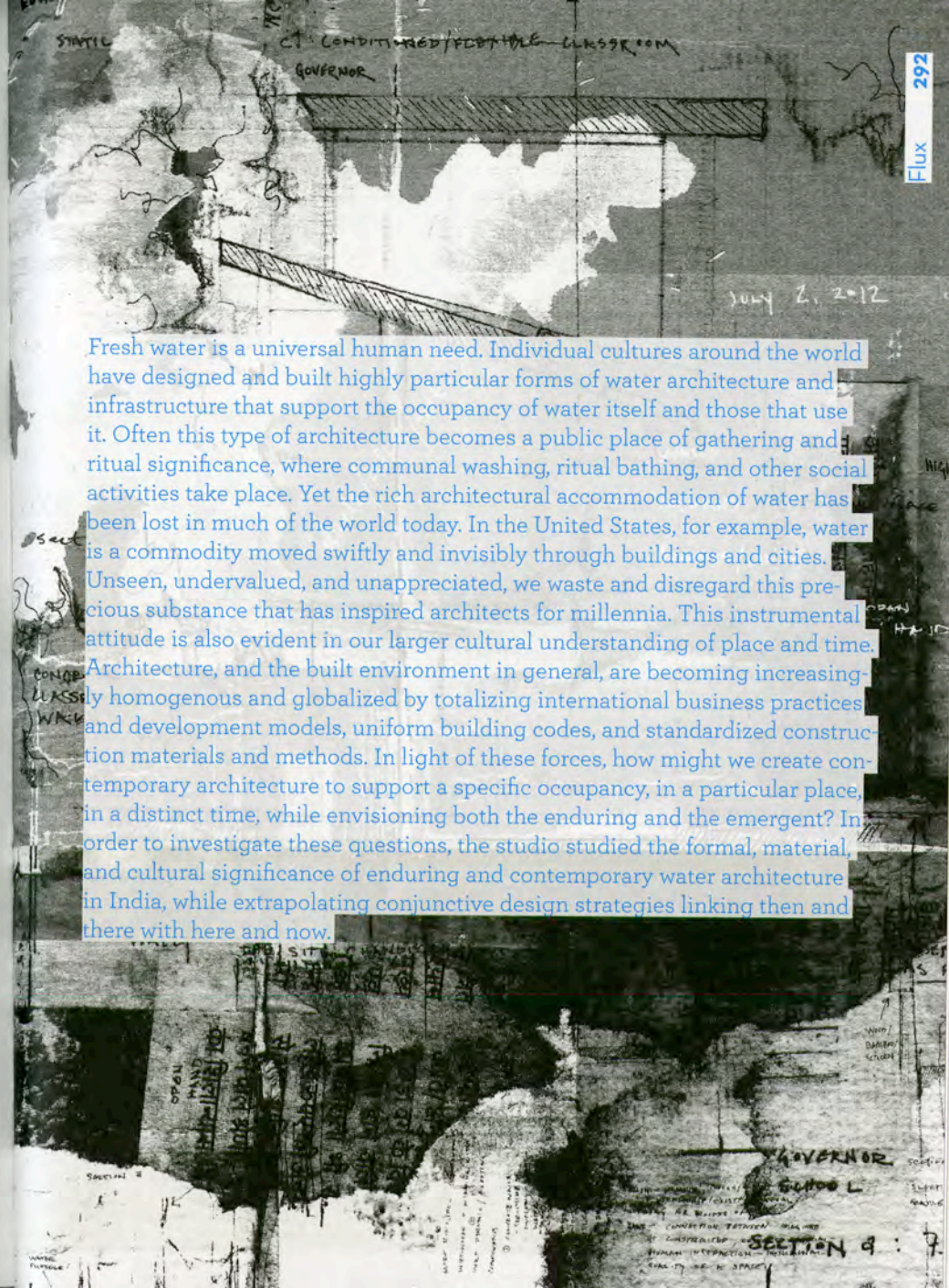
Phoebe Crisman + Peter Waldman_Summer 2012 Studio

The five-year India Initiative, conceived and directed by Phoebe Crisman and Peter Waldman, speculates about the foundations of architectural thinking in a context beyond the familiar. While applying a perspective at two scales of dwelling—the emergent megacity and the enduring village—we make connections between cultural practices that persist today and are far removed from our own. Each year focuses on one of the *panchabhuta*, or five building blocks of the universe: water, fire, earth, air, and ether. The research program is comprised of three interdependent courses that will produce an exhibit and publication of research findings and speculative projects. During the spring research seminar, students explored literary, historical, and philosophical foundations through a diverse selection of texts, films, art, architecture, and urbanism. Discussions focused on the evolving environmental, political, religious, and social discourses that inform the contemporary Indian built environment. While traveling students experienced India through sketches, drawings, collage, photographs, film, and writing. We also visited construction sites and interacted with notable Indian architects and scholars. Within the complex cultural, formal, spatial, and constructional Indian context, they designed a building in four locations: Chandigarh, Udaipur, Ahmedabad, and Pondicherry.

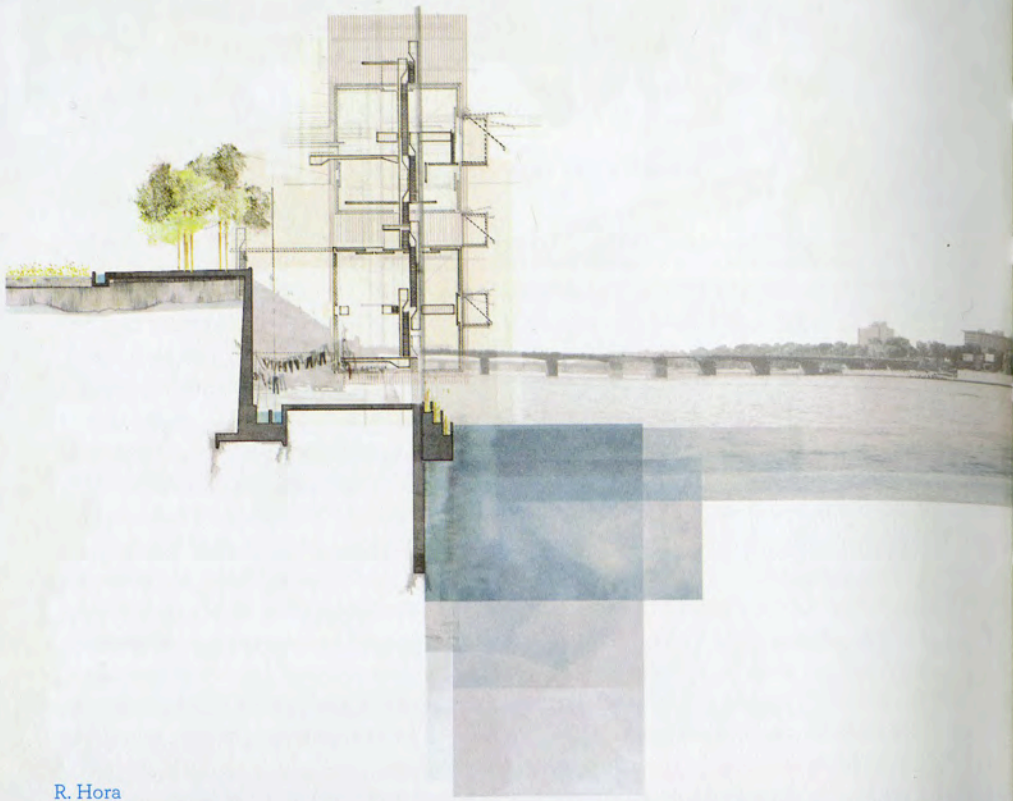


India
Flux
System

W. Newton



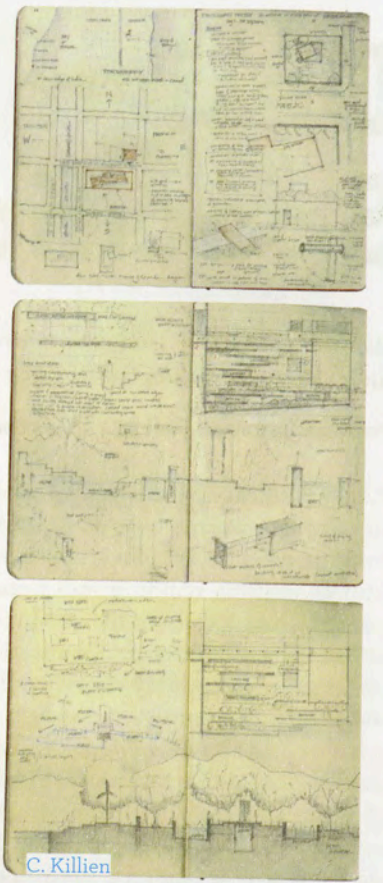
Fresh water is a universal human need. Individual cultures around the world have designed and built highly particular forms of water architecture and infrastructure that support the occupancy of water itself and those that use it. Often this type of architecture becomes a public place of gathering and ritual significance, where communal washing, ritual bathing, and other social activities take place. Yet the rich architectural accommodation of water has been lost in much of the world today. In the United States, for example, water is a commodity moved swiftly and invisibly through buildings and cities. Unseen, undervalued, and unappreciated, we waste and disregard this precious substance that has inspired architects for millennia. This instrumental attitude is also evident in our larger cultural understanding of place and time. Architecture, and the built environment in general, are becoming increasingly homogenous and globalized by totalizing international business practices and development models, uniform building codes, and standardized construction materials and methods. In light of these forces, how might we create contemporary architecture to support a specific occupancy, in a particular place, in a distinct time, while envisioning both the enduring and the emergent? In order to investigate these questions, the studio studied the formal, material, and cultural significance of enduring and contemporary water architecture in India, while extrapolating conjunctive design strategies linking then and there with here and now.



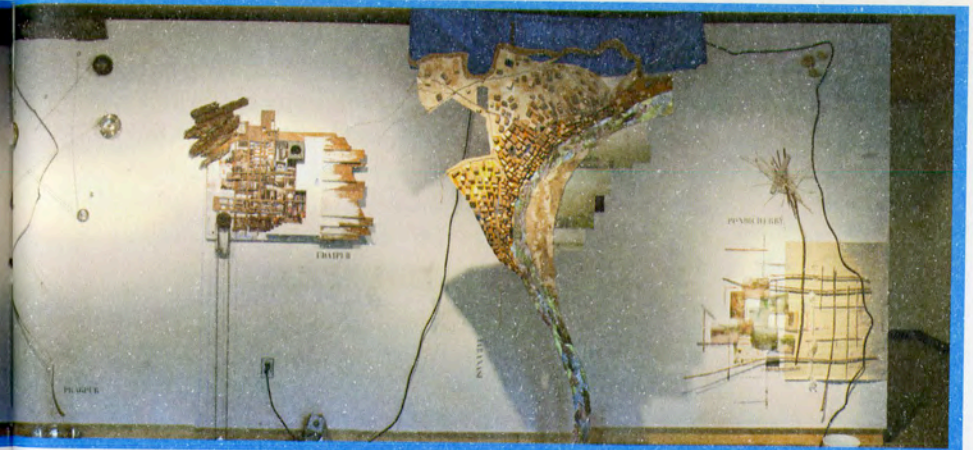
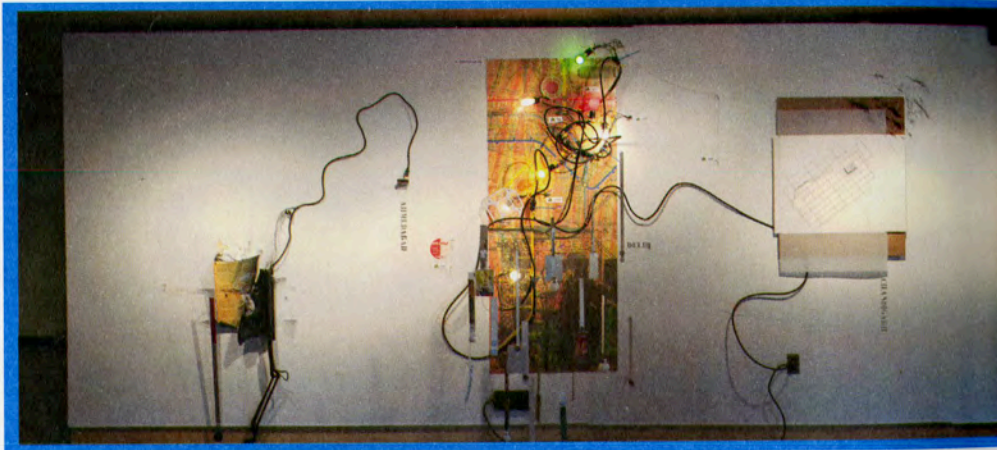
R. Hora



J. Chang



C. Killien



Crisis After the Deluge On Practical Imagination+Interview with dean Tanzer
Vortex Recalibrating the River A River + a Road WASH Managing Change, Mobilizing
Community Paradox City and the River War Zone Arctic Frontier Homelessness on the
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