WATER RELATIONS

UNDERSTANDING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO WATER: THROUGH RESEARCH, DIAGRAMS, AND GLASS

TIAN LI
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN
ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE THESIS
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QUESTIONS

- What is the impact of humans on landscapes?
- How does the land tell us a story of the beliefs and values of the people using it?
- How do we use infrastructure to control water?
- How has human intervention with natural waters affected the environment and those living in it?
- How do we understand our relationship to water through studying infrastructure?
- How can we understand human relationship to water and infrastructure?
- How does control of water impact and change the natural environment and our relationship to it?
- What is our social understanding of water and how does that impact our lives?
- How does our social understanding of water result in infrastructural changes that impact living organisms and their relationship to the natural world?
THESIS QUESTION

HOW HAVE INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEMS SHAPED OUR RELATIONSHIP TO WATER?
CALIFORNIA

Drive down I-5
WHERE IS THE WATER COMING FROM?

On average, California agriculture irrigates more than 9 million acres using roughly 34 million acre-feet of water.
HAWAI'I

ANCIENT LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

“This is the way we managed our resources for hundreds of years, and now we’re coming around to see how well they understood and cared for their environment by what’s left to us today.”

- Lei Wann, director of Limahuli Garden

ahupua'a system

Described by Hawaiians as extending from mauka (mountains) to makai (ocean).
Then there’s its accompanying hydropower plant, which was completed in 2012 and has a generating capacity of 22,500 megawatts, or more than three times the capacity of the Grand Coulee Dam, the largest in the United States.
For a start, the whole project cost 200 billion yuan ($28.6 billion), took nearly two decades to build, and required uprooting more than a million people along the Yangtze River.
The Blackstone River has been greatly altered, manipulated by industry to power the mills. The “hardest working river” was left impaired by industrialization but, in recent years, great progress has been made to clean it up and make it safe for swimming and fishing.

The Blackstone Canal

The Blackstone Canal main route for transportation of goods from Worcester - Providence

I started to think about my local environment and how I’ve been surrounded by water here in Providence Rhode Island. If you go to school in this area you are surrounded by the bays and the Providence canal. Today, the canal is used for leisure and other commercial events but the most prominent event would probably be waterfire.
THE COVE

The Cove was a Great Salt Basin full of life. Shellfish such as clams and oysters could be found in these waters. Woonasquatucket River (Algonquian for “where the salt water ends”) continues into the cove. It became heavily polluted during the Industrial Revolution which led to many public and governmental struggles.

There have been multiple reports on the sanitation of the cove and there was also a smell. Some parties believe that the Cove should be completely infilled and covered, while some such as the one who wrote this report believe that covering up this large body of water would actually be detrimental to health and that the smell had nothing to contribute to People’s Health.
PART I | RESEARCH
PART II | DIAGRAMMING

Events That Have Greatly Impacted This Region:
1. The Great September Gale | 1815
2. Blackstone Canal Construction | 1820
3. The September Gale | 1869
4. The Great Hurricane | 1938
5. Hurricane Carol | 1954

1. Providence Pedestrian Bridge Completed
2. Bank of America Building (Superman Building) Completed
3. Turk's Head Building
4. Railroad Track Relocation
5. Providence Place Mall
6. Hospital Trust Bank Now RISD (15 West)
7. Providence Hurricane Pump Overhauled
8. Providence Hurricane Barrier Construction
9. First Waterfire
10. Waterplace Park Opens
11. Proposed Plan to Infill Cove
12. Providence Cove Contained by Walls
13. Cove Basin Infilled

Other Major Projects:
1. Banigan Building (First Skyscraper)
2. Union Station
3. East Waterplace Inn
4. Providence Pedestrian Bridge
5. Providence Park
6. Newport Bridge
7. First Waterplace Inn
8. Bank of America Building (Superman Building) Completed
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