48-300: Architecture Design Studio: Praxis Studio 1
Units: 18
Instructor: TBD

CULTIVATING INFRASTRUCTURE: Architecture of Landscape Ecology
The studio’s design pedagogy is centered on architecture’s response to climate change. Emphasizing the role of landscape in shaping architecture, students focus on uncovering its social, infrastructural, and ecological histories, along with the patterns of toxicity, as they relate to cultures of post-industrial urbanization. The studio is situated within an urban ecology of perpetual flooding, investigating conditions of aging infrastructures as a substrate for new forms of human and non-human habitation. Coupling qualitative design methods with evidence-based design, the studio emphasizes environmental ethics beyond the professional confounds of sustainability. Foregrounding drawing methods that nurture techniques founded in a rejection of reductivism, while borrowing from cartography and dynamic landscape descriptions, the aim is to instill design of architectures and landscapes for creation of new forms of spatial democracy, to provoke novel architectural and urban aesthetics and to enable a projective design imagination tightly linked to creation of bio-synthetic and natural, multispecies environments.