

“Sand” is a solid, but is a compile of thousands of pieces.

My Full name is Pulin Rattananalin, but feel free to call me Sand. I am currently eighteen, but nineteen awaits me just around the corner of October. I have a sister, she attends Chiangmai’s top medical school. My parents graduated from business school and share a family business. I graduated from The International Christian School Nonthaburi-a small but beloved home.

My journey to PGS was, still, a challenge. Initially, I wanted to do business school-specifically marketing—but I soon realised I was fulfilling the

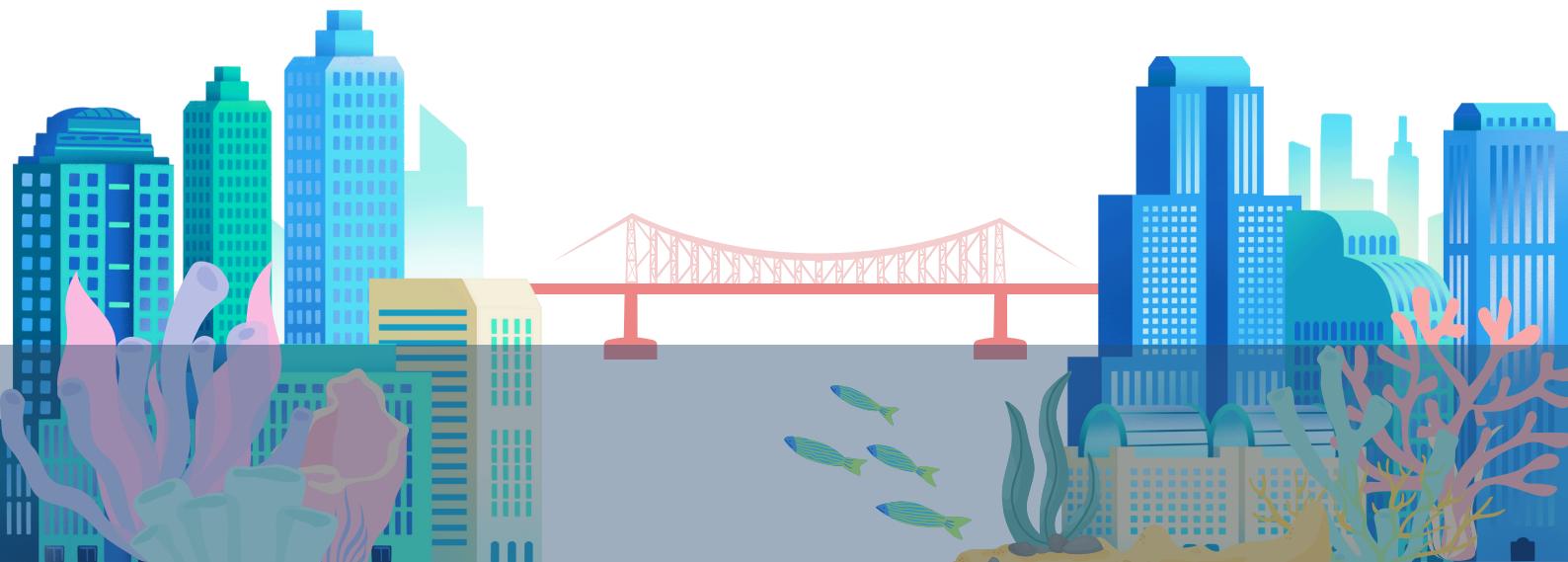


hopes and wishes of other people. I struggled for the majority of 12th grade, I was not able to set a goal for myself. This indecisiveness led me to a fork in the road, a decision between PGS or medical science. My decision surprised everyone, even me.

PGS was introduced to me by my college counselor and a fellow PGS student generation 77. I was vice president and office manager of the student council, class president, the school's representative at unicef, etc. My counselor thought that PGS would best reflect my extracurricular, she claimed that political science was a “gossip contest.” Contrary, I had always found comfort in science. My regular classes included countless STEM APs. I prefer AP biology. Science holds a very precious corner in my heart, but conversing, negotiating, and building relationships was my identity.

I struggle to make peace with my decision, though I believe it was the suitable choice for me. Stepping out of my area of comfort is not my forte, be that as it may I need this for growth. Currently, I feel intimidated by my colleagues, each one of them unique with a passion for PGS, for change. I hope to slowly adopt a different mindset as I receive guidance from professors. Transitioning myself into the PGS version of me, I also look forward to meeting me. Soon I will have to make another crucial decision. Does one choose Australia, the UK, or Korea? Each university is known for its distinct branch of political science. The lessons and experience prepares the respective student for work in the branch the university is renowned for. I am clueless. I have heard many arguments for all three universities, yet I am only able to see the frame but the picture of my future continues to blur.

I truthfully look forward to Social thinking and design. I hope my vulnerability poured into this writing allowed you to understand the thousands of pieces that makes up Sand.



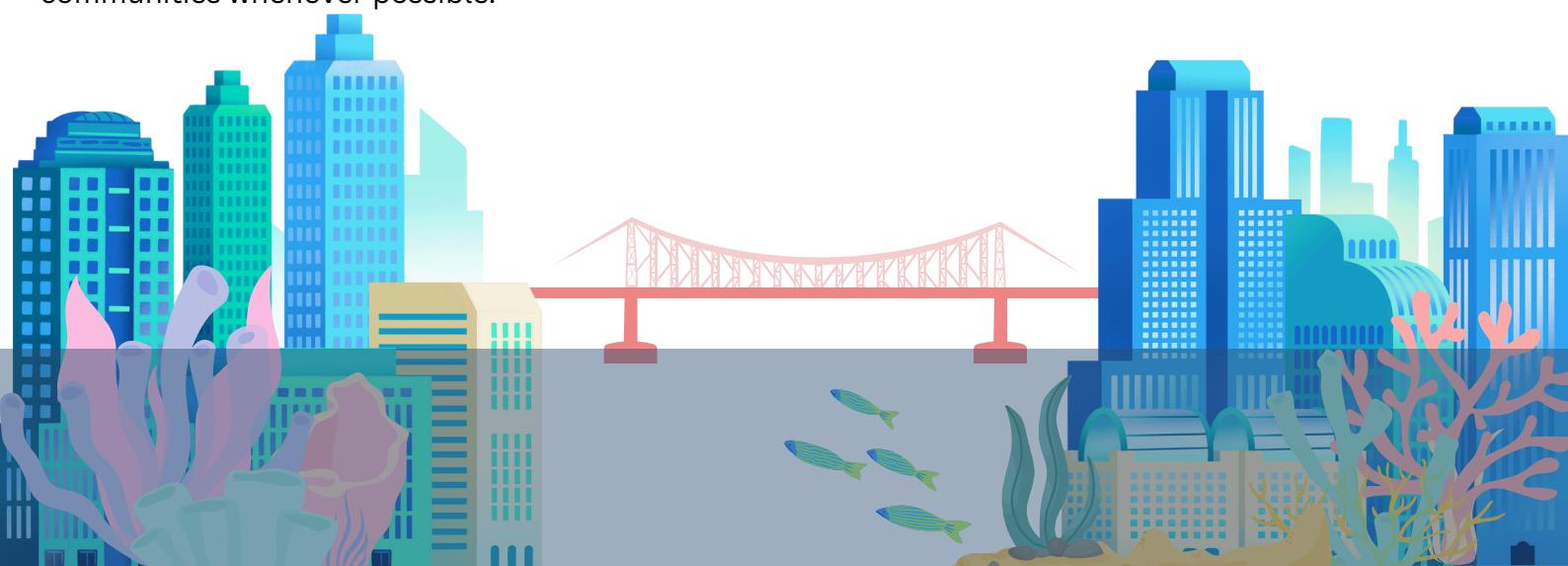
As a kid, grandpa always said our surname “Tharachai” is a Thai portmanteau word that combines “water” and “victory” into one, translating to “a victory that is achieved in ways that are as river.” He was also the one to choose my first name, “Pordee” the Thai word for things being just right—not too much or too little. And I have always found it odd, interpreting it, like a cynic, as setting me up for a life of mediocrity. Strangely enough, my life seems to be a self-fulfilling prophecy of my name. Though I would not say in a bad way. I drifted through life languorously, like a slow tide stream, content with small pleasures and achievements, until it was time to pursue higher education.



A big part that makes up who I am is music. I never fail to mention the fact my hard work paid off, and I was accepted into my dream school—Berklee College of Music, yet I had to give up the opportunity because of financial reasons. Politics was never my first choice. It was plan B. Even though I do read books on ideologies and follow politics news regularly, I did not think working in politics was for me. Who was I to be the one to make amendments and pass bills that could immensely impact a person’s life? The fact is, however, if I just mope around criticizing politics, only god knows when the advent of the change I wanted to see in the world will come. Looking on the bright side, studying politics did not seem too bad, and it was at Chulalongkorn University. One of the quotes I try to live by was “God help those who help themselves”. Opportunities will inevitably be presented to you one day, your job is to make sure you are prepared to seize it. I could still work on my musicianship while studying another discipline. I accepted what I could not change.

I spent a substantial part of my life attending a christian private school, Mater Dei. Needless to say it played a significant role in shaping my subconscious and beliefs. When you are surrounded by christian teachings, its central idea becomes ingrained into your mind. That is, the emphasis on loving your neighbors as you love yourself or in other words, “empathy”. This is the idea that has ties in mutual aid practices and anarchistic ideology. It plays a significant role in my curiosity towards those aforementioned. Not to mention my coming from a family background that works closely with local communities, which cultivated my passion for the more human-relation side of politics such as NGOs and grassroots movements—I was never so interested in diving into policies. But what drew me to political science was the notion induced from my helplessness that to fix the system, it was first necessary to know the structure of politics. I believe it is a strength to know one’s passion and competency.

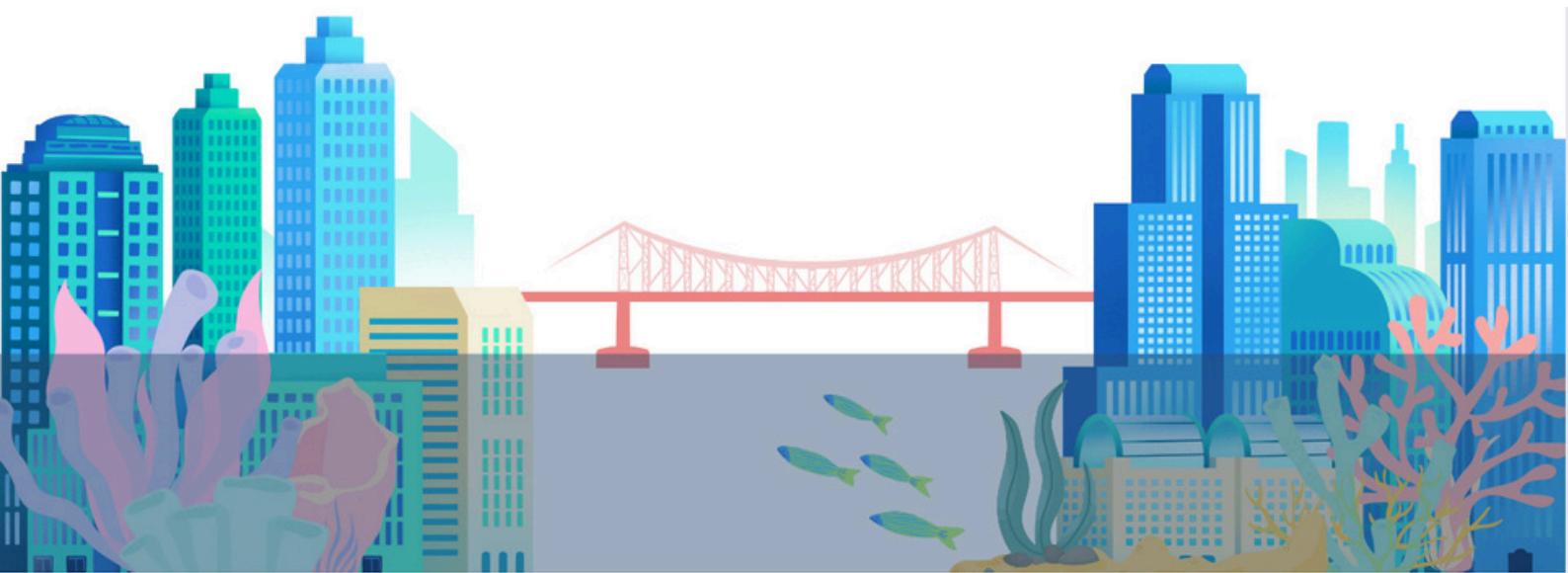
Having said all of this, it will come as no surprise I have set my mind on working in the music industry in the future. Though it is my belief that it is an individual's basic duty to not look away when injustice is present. Which is why I hope to compromise both fields through musical activism, a form of activism that uses music as a tool to inspire, protest, and drive social change. As well as do volunteer work to help local communities whenever possible.



My full name is Irean Na Patalung or you can call me Pear. I am turning 19 years old in November. My hobby is reading novels & learning new languages. I've been studying Japanese since I was 13. I am looking to start learning French in the near future as well. I went to a high school in London named DLD College and finished my A level in London accordingly. After studying Economics in A Level I became quite fond about the idea of macroeconomic and international relation. This is one of the main reasons why I am drawn to politics related courses. In the future, I am still open to exploring many career options. However, spending my teenage years in Europe, I have become more familiar and comfortable with their study culture & the life routine. Therefore, I am determined to work in Europe in the future as well.



As for now I am interested in working in an international organisation which relates to public policy such as trade. Specifically, I am interested in organisations such as the World Bank or the IMF which engage with development in both global & local scale. Following the news about wars I feel the pain for people who were forced to go through it. Therefore, I wish to be engaged in peacekeeping on a national scale to help avoid people suffering from war. The idea of conservatism has arisen among developed countries such as the US or Japan to reflect the change in the world. I wish to achieve many more aspects in the politics world to contribute toward building a more stable, and cooperative international community, where economic growth, social justice, and peace can thrive hand in hand. And I hope to achieve more theoretical aspects from Social Thinking & Design class.

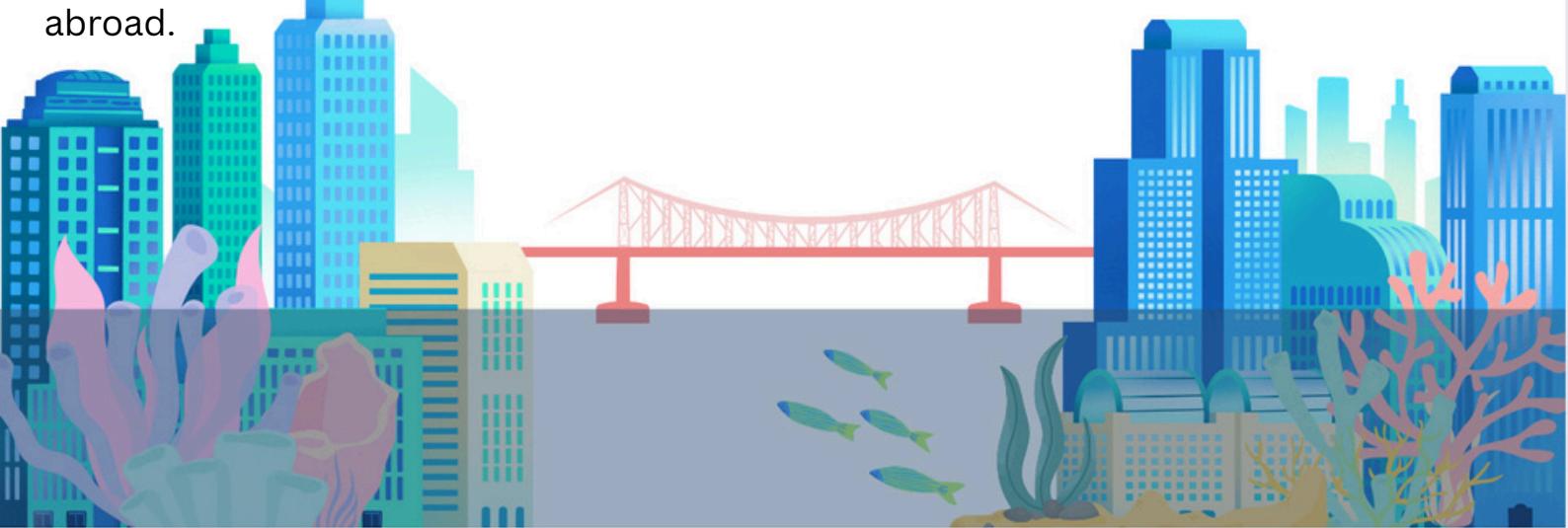




My name is Supassorn Klinhom, or Maprang. I'm 17 years old and graduated from GED. I'm from Bangkok, but I also spent lots of time with my family from other parts of the country, which made me think of how different people are in different places, and ultimately made me do an exchange program.

Ever since I was a kid, I've always been interested in other cultures, specifically in middle school when I had more specific interests about how politics shape countries, which made me want to work in international relations, which became more solid during my stay in America. I found myself being comfortable and having minimal problems adapting to new cultures and societal norms, which made me more confident about my preferred job fields, since it's possible that I would have to work with people from other ethnicities.

I look forward to learning about how politics shapes a country, how characteristics and cultures of each country influence politics, life and meeting people from other countries, and having first-hand experiences during my sophomore and junior years abroad.



Whenever I introduce myself, I would never forget to add that my name means orange. This was up until a few years ago when I had my identity crisis after finding out that the “Som” in my name was actually a tangerine and not an orange. (Notice the difference is in how an orange has orange peels while a tangerine has green peels.) Writing this now, I’ve realized my name is the result of generations weaving their gifts into me: my mother gave me my full name, Nathaphat, my grandparents gave me my last name, Sunnitilawan, and my father gave me my nickname, Som. Hi, it is nice to meet you. I am Nathaphat Sunnitilawan, but please call me Som.

I was born in the month of love on the 12th of February, just two days before valentine. I lived in Bangkok until the age of 3 before my family moved to Chiang Mai. I’ve been there ever since. Through some twist of fate I was sent to an international kindergarten, not because my parents wanted me there specifically, but just because it was the one closest to home. This set of my journey of how I was fortunate enough to attend international school. I graduated high school in 2025 from Chiang Mai International School (CMIS) in black and purple robes. In a few years from now I would hope to graduate draped in completely opposite colors, white and yellow.



As a young girl, when adults ask what I want to be in the future I would gladly answer, “Air hostess!”

“Why?”

“Because they get to wear pretty clothes and travel the world.”

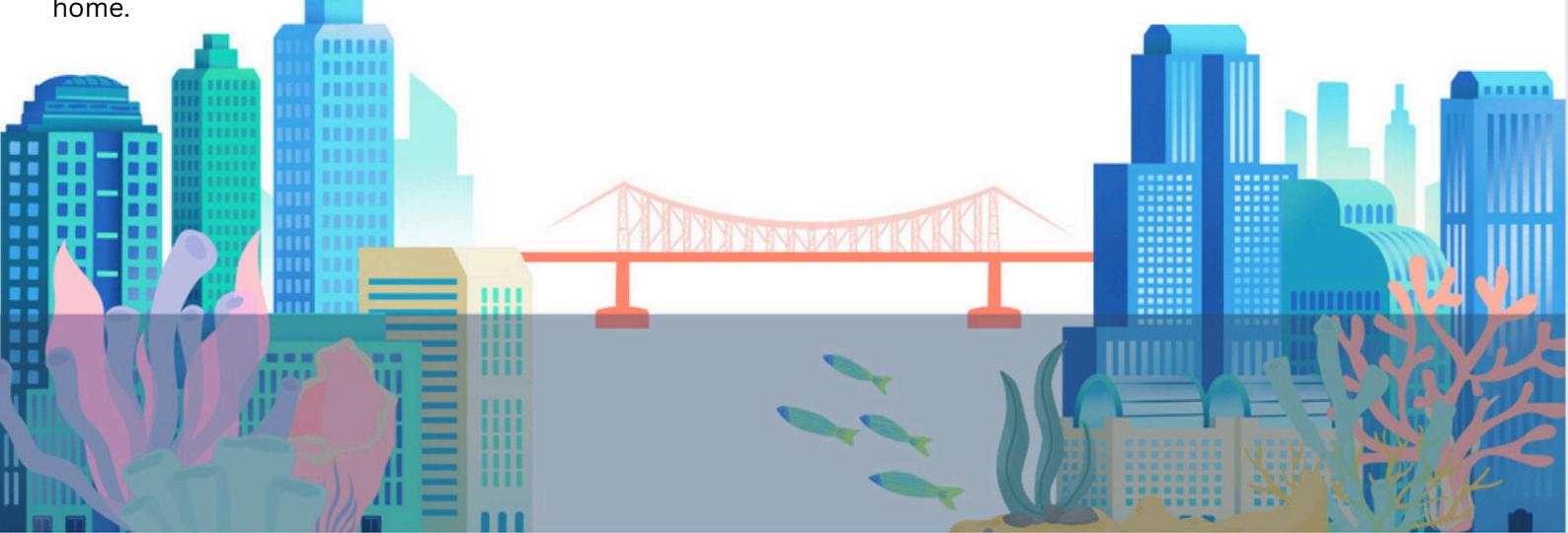
That dream was quickly snipped in the bud as I discovered that I was too short for them to want me. Ironically, now airlines welcomed smaller staff, yet by the time standards changed, so had I. I discovered another profession that could take me across borders - not in service of passengers, but in service of my nation. I want to be an ambassador.

I know that for many PGS wasn’t their first choice, however it was mine. I like that this course provides students with real experience to develop the necessary skill set by sending them abroad to navigate their own path. Maybe that’s just a fancy way of saying I want to travel, but I truly believe that the program’s design which aims to nurture student’s understanding of politics and social construct will become an important stepping stone for many, including myself.

Deciding to move to Bangkok for university was a big change. Honestly speaking, parts of me wanted to stay in Chiang Mai - I knew the city, and the city knew me. I felt safe. Moving meant letting go of mountain views and foggy Sundays, trading it for an almost dystopian metropolis where neon lights blind the night sky and the obnoxious sound of traffic fills the air.

Though chasing prestige and challenge pushed my relocation decision, I was undeniably drawn to finding my place in a city my birth certificate called home. I’m still struggling to fit in with the city, to understand its culture and its unspoken rules. And while sometimes the amnesia lane of calm nights in Chiang Mai makes me question if this was really the right choice, I know that being immersed in a place of my roots can never be a wrong choice.

No matter what city or place, I will change because of it, and in return, because of me it will change. I hope to leave trances of myself everywhere I go so that even in the furthest corner of the world I could come to call that place home.



Define your dystopian world

What happened?

In this context we imagined our ‘dystopian world’ to be what happened after climate change from the melt & altered ocean conditions in Alaska causing floods to occur globally. This is caused from the gas emission release from human activity such as burning fossil fuels or even intensive agriculture of livestock farming. As a result, humans need to adapt to the change of the environment. Agriculture on land & soil are no longer possible from loss of land to the underwater. The ecosystem collapse caused many plant species to die immediately from saltwater exposure. Moreover, geologically there are no more seasons. Without land & sea distribution, the weather patterns would change dramatically causing the planet's climate to be more stable but less suitable for living. Despite the life of living things on land to suffer, marine life such as fishes and others face more chances of becoming extinct as the flood leads to massive oxygen depletion in the oceans.

Who has power?

As mentioned in the above, humans will need to adapt to the change of the condition in the world. People who are in power in the dystopian world are someone who owns the building above the water. As they are the ones who decide where people would live which can determine their status & condition of living in the long term. Moreover, as our dystopian society is based around water, technocrats such as scientists or engineers have played a powerful role in being able to control & use their knowledge in surveillance systems, transportation, electricity, and food production since there's less space to grow crops since they're all flooded, and most animals are drowned. They also invented AI Rule to help society run efficiently such as transportation, system maintenance, running factories, and tending to some basic work such as cashiers, maids, or running public transportation systems since the population decreased from not escaping the flood on time. People with the most power would be the ones generating electricity from water, since people do need electricity in everyday life and old sources of electricity were already flooded.

What are the living conditions?

Poorer people may live closer to the water level, since when it rains the water level may rise, people in power would not choose to live on lower grounds. In that case, lower grounds may have a lower quality of life too. People would have to adapt to drastic changes in environment and weather conditions. High waves and storms may occur, but instead of being in the ocean, it happens right next to people's workplaces or habitat, so they would have to prepare themselves for sudden rise of water levels, waves crashing, and they would develop a much better weather forecast system. Main transportation methods will change, instead of cars people would travel by boats, tunnels would be built and trains or electrical trains will be used there. Instead of planes people would use submarines or water powered boats too, since the weather might change at any time, high waves and thunderstorms may cause lots of plane crashes. Working environments will worsen, since poorer people will have to rely on richer people a lot more, since they will own almost everything in the beginning of this dystopian world. They will generate electricity, produce food, and basically run a monopoly since they have the funds to do that from the start. People will be overworked in order to earn money and buy their services, but it will eventually get better when people are more crafty and figure things out to save their wages instead of buying everything.



Context

After the big flood, only a small portion of humanity survive. Communities now live in compact structure that stretches vertically deep into the flooded old world, and rise high into the new world above water.

Purpose and Function

The structures are the tops of buildings after they were flooded. There are tunnels connecting each tower for stability and for transportation purposes. Some of the tunnels lead downwards; the intention was to show that the tunnels allowed access to areas underwater. At the mention of transportation, we also included boats for surface-level transportation. Though most we intentionally structure all the towers to be connected by tunnel to promote them as the primary source of transportation.

Ethical Concerns or Trade Off

Concerns we had for the design were mainly traffic and the dependent channels. We worry that traveling between places will only have one main path there will be constant high traffic. Moreover, if one tunnel were to break, transportation would halt for the entire community.

Oppress or Empowerment in Time of Crisis

In times of crisis, swiftness is key. A delay in government action could mean putting more citizens' lives at risk. Using the sunken city dystopian as an example, the results of a city that is designed in segregation and oppression would mean people living in poorer areas are at a much higher risk than those in the upper-class suburbs and less concentrated areas which have more access to resources and help.

Emergency architecture plays a big role in an event of disaster. If the design was made with low quality materials or is not well thought out, what meant to be a quick aid could result in worsening the situation and more casualties. More often than not, the majority of people affected are the poor. However, a well designed architecture will not only ensure the safety of the people, but also encourage mutual aid.