

VEINS OF WATER

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURAL ADAPTATION IN A CITY SUBMERGED

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IN A NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE, TRANSFORMED BY THE PRESSURES OF OVERPOPULATION, GLOBAL OVERCONSUMPTION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE, BANGKOK IS LEFT FENDING OFF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE, A WORLD SHAPED BY HUMAN IMPACT. THE OLD CITY'S RICH HERITAGE AND CHAOTIC STREETS HAVE BEEN RESHAPED BY A HYPER-DENSE ECOLOGICAL PARADIGM SHIFT, AS TECHNOLOGIES AND ARCHITECTURAL FORMS ADAPT AND MERGE WITH VISIONED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

THE FAMILIAR URBAN LANDSCAPE OF ALLEYWAYS, SHOPHOUSES, AND TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS HAS EVOLVED INTO A WINDING MAZE OF STACKED INFORMAL STRUCTURES, ADAPTING TO FLOODED TERRAINS AND THE REMNANTS OF THE PAST. LAYERS OF HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE NOW SERVE AS THE FOUNDATION FOR A NEW CITY, WHERE DISTRICTS HAVE BECOME WATER-BASED ENVIRONMENTS, SUSTAINED BY HYDROELECTRIC POWER.

YET, BENEATH THIS NEW REALITY, THE GHOST OF THE OLD CITY LINGERS—AN ECHO OF WHAT ONCE WAS. HOW DOES URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE RESPOND TO SUCH A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION? HOW DO WE PRESERVE OUR HUMAN ESSENCE IN A WORLD SO DRASTICALLY ALTERED? WHAT WOULD ARCHITECTURE LOOK LIKE AND HOW WOULD IT ADAPT TO AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURAL CONTEXTS?

ENVISIONING A BANGKOK THAT HAS MORPHED INTO AN UNCANNY, DISTORTED VERSION OF ITSELF, WHERE WATER FLOWS LIKE VEINS THROUGH EVERY PART OF THE CITY, THIS PROJECT REIMAGINES LIFE UNDER NEW ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONDITIONS. TAKEN ALONG THE SIMPLE YET ELEGANT ROUTINE OF DAILY LIFE, CONTRASTING THAT OF WHAT WE KNOW SO FAMILIARLY. SEEN THROUGH A LENS THAT TRAVELS THROUGH BANGKOK'S URBAN AND RURAL-SCAPE, CHALLENGING US TO QUESTION THE VERY QUALITIES THAT MAKE BANGKOK; BANGKOK.