



Known Unknowns

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“[T]here are known knows; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know.”

- Former United States Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, at a February 12, 2002 press briefing regarding weapons of destruction in Iraq.

This studio investigates the political ecology of climate change through the lens of risk management in architecture and urbanism. The idea of a risk society expands existing discourse about environmentalism—often focused on preservation, conservation and restraint—to include broader questions about an economy of collective resources. Swelling oceans, parched fields, and dwindling species counts, among other potential hazards of a warming planet, spread collateral damages of modern marvels to new, greater collectives of shared interest. For architecture and urbanism, impending hazards call for risk management strategies. The design of tropical tourist destinations, aging power grids, and carbon-free cities can mitigate climate disasters while generating new ones. In this studio, we will ask how architecture's response to climate risk imagines new collectives.