Environmental Imagination

River as Bridge

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UNT Speaks Out Program at Earth Day
Willis Library
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WATER IN MODERN CULTURE
WATER OUT OF SINK/SYNC?

H2O Store in Beverly, USA
Water is about Relations on multiple levels across multiple dimensions

- Related to the dynamics of a watershed (land use changes, soil erosion, land degradation, infrastructure development, etc) which are affected by cultural beliefs and practices.

- Relates local knowledge and interests with environmental protection, upstream with downstream, country development priorities with regional concerns, micro situation to macro picture of watershed management and its governance.

- Diversity of Culture is like Complexity of water issues: embedded in different levels and scales (relating global, regional, country, small scale watershed).

- If culture is not taken into consideration in sustainable resource management policy making and power structures there is a lack of engagement, commitment, trust and compliance of local communities.
Water is a connecting element, relating biodiversity with cultural diversity. Infrastructure is part of this bio-cultural dynamic: the infrastructural life of water. Water connects engineered hydraulic space with cultural experience and everyday practice.

• Awareness raising
• Environmental imagination
Earth Rise
NASA Apollo 8  Dec 1968
Cuyahoga River Fire
June 1969
Ethics & Environmental Imagination

Rivers bridge, link, and intertwine

- Nature/Environment and Culture
- Water and Land: Watershed
- Downstream- Upstream
- Local-Regional-Global
- Thinking-doing-living
- Ethics as ethos, larger cultural practice and mentality, or social-cultural imagery
- Re-imagine ethics as well as our way of living with water
Rivers have been anchors of civilization but also reasons for rivalry (the word *rival* is related to *river*). Covering great distances they connect a wide diversity of people and places. They are rich ecological and cultural corridors. In many cultures rivers represent the capacity for transformation.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, one in ten of the world’s major rivers no longer reached the sea for part of the year because of upstream use of their waters, mainly for irrigation.

60% the world’s 227 largest rivers have been fragmented by infrastructures such as dams and diversions. With most dams in the northern hemisphere the axis of the earth has tilted.

Many rivers are shadows of their former selves. The blue lines on the map are often tokens of faded glories. Whereas rivers once symbolized transition, they are themselves in transition.
River Celebrations: Ganges

Kumbha Mela festival occurs every twelve years. Millions of people congregate to bathe in the river for the ultimate karmic cleanse. Haridwar (Upper Ganges) hosts the Dikhanti ("birth of the river") celebration every spring.
Brisbane River Festival

*Riversymposium* is part of *Riverfestival* an iconic cultural festival focused on the Brisbane River catchment, celebrating the City's river, people, culture and environment.
RiverSphere is a place for art, science, and technology, about rivers, for river communities, on the New Orleans Mississippi riverfront. [http://riverweb.org/](http://riverweb.org/)

Community center. Scientists working side-by-side with artists; visitors interacting with researchers; schoolchildren attending seminars; musicians poets and dancers performing.
RiverSpheres

- Facilitating involvement, engagement, motivation, imagination, sense of belonging/identity, political and ecological awareness (including infrastructure)
- Integrating environmental flows and cultural flows
- Rivers influence life styles-life styles influence rivers
- Vision: an inspiring image of a desired future
- Re-imagine the river
RIVER PLANET film 2011
Amazon, Danube Ganges Los Angeles River Rio Grande
3 main themes – work, play and ritual, constituting a river culture, river identity
Re-imagining Cities and Water
Re-connecting to Rivers
The EYE Film Institute collection tens of thousands of films & hundred thousand movie stills. Opened April 2012.

Muziek Gebouw, Music Building & BIM House (Jazz) (2006)
Restaurant across the IJ, slightly decrepit industrial area, with sheds and garages. The shipyard has very much been left in its original state, heavy duty lifts and industrial heaters all visible, and walls and steel beams uncovered. Vibe: Industrial cool.
How to safeguard cultural diversity in urban development projects?

- Who are the experts? What counts as expertise?
  - Hydrologists, scientists, urban planners, developers,
  - Everyday experience of the people who live in a place…

- Urban renewal, including river-restoration often entails dislocating and politically marginalizing current residents in the name of development

- How to make low-income residents beneficiaries of the project instead of victims?
  - Participatory planning--contrasting perceptions who should control the urban planning process and in whose interest.
  - Planning for low-income minority, middle class, recreation, birds, fish, mammals, the river itself…
Future potential projects in your neighborhood

Over 200 projects have been proposed within the City of Los Angeles as part of River revitalization. Some possibilities are illustrated below.

KEY MAP + LEGEND:
- Existing Open Space
- Existing Creeks
- Proposed Open Space
- Proposed Creek
- Existing Paved Pathway
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Paved Pathway
- Proposed Trail
- Arroyo Seco Parkway
- City Sidewalks

UPSTREAM MAP
Urban Renewal Around Rivers: Dallas, Texas. New Identity around watershed
- 710 miles (1143 km) long
- 34 reservoirs; supplying 90% regions needs
- DFW 25.2% state population; 7.2% state's water use (due to low agriculture)

85% DFW water use municipal

260 gal (985 l) /person/day
Corridor Project
Maps of The Trinity Project

View Trinity Lakes map

View Trinity Vision map
BRIDGING THE TRINITY for the LOVE of the city

The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration is STILL on schedule and on time
- we'll see you March 2-4 on the bridge!

events

Friday, March 2 | Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration Party
7pm-11pm | Ticket: $200 | GET YOUR TICKET NOW!

Lyle Lovett and his large band headline the opening evening between the glowing Dallas skyline on the eastside and the vibrant neighborhood festivities of Bridge-o-Rama in West Dallas. Experience the beauty of Calatrava’s design up close in the architecture of the bridge and replicated in 14-foot Calatrava-inspired costumed performers. Enjoy local foods, delectable tastings from Trinity Groves celebrity chefs, specialty drinks, great entertainment, and dance the night away on the bridge. DJ Lucy Wubel will spin bridge tunes and the award-winning Street Corner Symphony will perform. The evening tops off under the glow of fireworks and the dramatic lighting of the bridge. Valet parking provided. Dallas Pedicabs rides available. Hosted by The Trinity Trust.

Signature bridges....
Denton, TX: Southern Pond of North Lakes Park (Detention or Storm water Pond)

- Education
- Common/Public Space for Variety of communities--Frisbee players, dog walkers, fishing, hanging out, birds, beavers, bobcats
Reclaiming Water Infrastructure  
Reconnecting the Visible, Invisible and the Potential  

Green Infrastructure as a Mode of Urban Renewal  
Around Storm water Management  

In the 1970’s, plans for a de/retention pond arose to prevent damage to Denton like that caused by the floods of 1957 and 1962. SCS 16’s construction was paired with a similar structure to the northeast, SCS #17A, creating the necessary measures to prevent flooding in the lower areas of Denton. If you were to read on a map  

Soil Conservation Service’s Hickory Creek Basin Retarding Pond #16  

would you want to head right over there for a walk, to go fishing, to paddle a little boat, to show your kids beaver & scissor-tail fly catchers?
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (breeding)
NO DUMPING
DRAINS TO STREAM
Visual & Performative Storm Water Story Telling

http://www.nbcdfw.com/video/#1/weather/stories/Decorating-Storm-Drains/148971645
THREE TYPES OF PIPES: for drinking water, waste water, storm water

• Denton provides excellent drinking water,
• Denton has a state of the art wastewater treatment plant.
• Denton has a good storm water system.

But...when it rains, it pours... when you over-water your yard, or wash your car, the water drains into city drains and goes to...? The waste water treatment plant? No! Into the soil? No! WHERE DOES IT GO???

Run-off goes through storm water drains, piped directly into Lewisville Lake. It picks up pollution, stuff, debris, chemicals, dog-poop along the way. All goes down the drain, straight into the water. We need to help our city to keep storm water clean, by not over-watering our lawns, not littering, no illegal dumping of waste, spilling chemicals....Lewisville Lake is a source of drinking water...

COME TO THINK ABOUT IT
COME AND SEE THE MURALS ON DENTON DRAINS

Artist Kiba Jacobson designed three murals for storm drains. You can see them on North Bell Avenue: near Denton Civic Center and Texas Woman's University; a third one at Emily Fowler Central Library on Oakland Street. Kiba will work on a fourth one with local school children during 2012 Denton Arts & Jazz Festival.
All water is part of the water cycle. 
Our water comes from our Trinity River watershed 
and goes back into it, 
Our water touches our lives through our pipes. 
Our underground infrastructure is our invisible asset, 
the roots of our city. 
Water touches all life.

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An initiative of the City of Denton. David Hunter, Watershed Protection Manager, Water Utilities, City of Denton in collaboration with artist Kiba Jacobson and Dr. Irene Klaver, Director of Philosophy of Water Project, University of North Texas.