

QIXUAN HU, WITH ANA BONET MIRÓ, PADDI ALICE BENSON, AND MARK DORRIAN

INTERSTICES 23

## Speculative inconstancy: Exploring the architectural potential of porosity

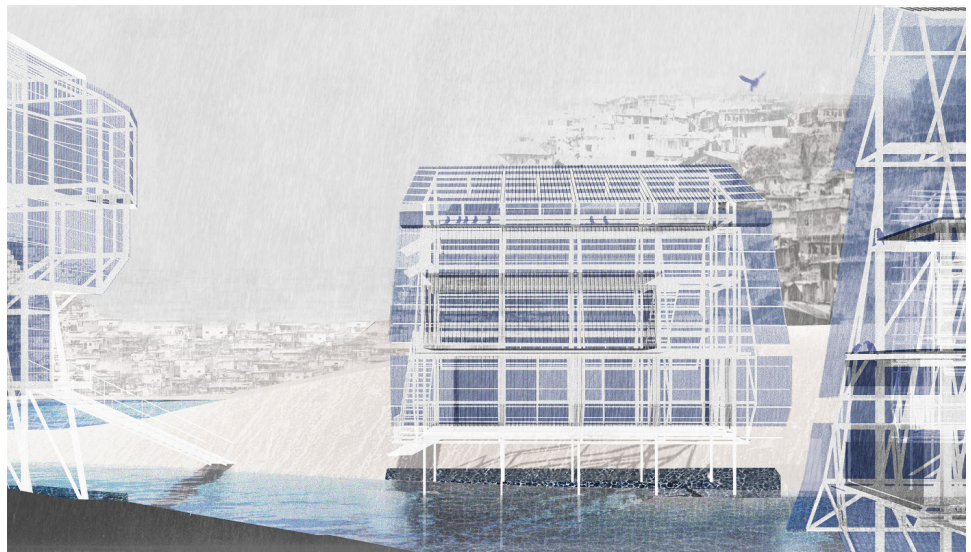


Fig. 1 Qixuan Hu (2023). Symbiosis with the flood. [Digital render]

The growing severity of climate-related issues challenges the traditional binary perception of land as liveable or uninhabitable. Consequently, more areas now find themselves in an ambiguous zone of questionable liveability. Coastal, ravine, and riverine regions are especially at risk, with rising sea levels and frequent flooding placing them in an uncertain position between habitable and uninhabitable.

This phenomenon necessitates a re-evaluation of prevailing architectural practices that often view the appearance of architecture right after construction as its definitive and desired state. Such a perspective gives rise to a widening gap between the intended design and the actual material behaviour.<sup>1</sup> Overlooking the potential impact of external factors can render buildings vulnerable to shifting environmental conditions, which are growing more unpredictable and intense.

In response to these turbulent landscapes, this research-driven design delves into the potential of an adaptable architectural language that coordinates with environmental fluctuations—located within a seasonally submerged ravine in San Miguelito, Panama City. The initiative introduces a community centre to the