



Fifty Under Fifty

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In addition to climate change, the fabric of society that is composed of political, economic, and social threads is also changing. With each passing decade, it is becoming more and more difficult for us to predict what the needs of tomorrow's city will be. When a city's infrastructure no longer satisfies the community's needs, demolition and reconstruction are considered the common solution, even if the structures have technically not even come close to the end of their expected lifespan. By providing a resolution to many problems stemming from climate change and urbanization, water-based developments are redefining urbanism.

Just as the elevator was essential to use the space above our cities, modern floating foundations can offer flexibility sought after by contemporary designers and urban planners, as well as an ample amount of space in the forms of rivers, lakes, canals, and coastal zones.

A floating development is used, re-modified, restructured, moved, and reused until the product's lifecycle has been completely exhausted, at which point it is recycled, and all waste associated with this process is appropriately discarded. The dynamic quality of floating developments and the associated system of production offer a new method of construction which is minimally invasive.

Since most modern urban developments have a functional lifespan of approximately 50 to 80 years, a home or business owner is considered a consumer of a product with a limited lifecycle, which will eventually expire. Similar to how modern technology provides customization tools in order to organize and seamlessly integrate virtual amenities into a person's life, floating technology strives to make use of its adaptability to shorten response time and offer mobile urban components known as "City Apps." Adding a floating app to a city is similar to adding an application to a smart phone. City Apps are floating urban components with many different kinds of functions, which are added on water to an existing city's static grid. They are created off-site then moved into an area, providing instant solutions which respond to a society's changing needs. City Apps are easily moved and updated, which opens up the possibility of relocation, lease, or resale by transferring them elsewhere when and if there is no longer a need for them in their original location.

Floating technology may not be the answer to every problem, but water-based urbanism is set to transform communities around the world. Traditional, static cities will become more dynamic. The foundations necessary to entertain innovative creations that will give shape to the future already exist. Changing the perception towards water-based developments is crucial to finding opportunities that will provide greener, safer, and more flexible urban developments. An open mind will prepare cities for the global challenges yet to come by providing economic, political, and environmental freedom and prosperity.

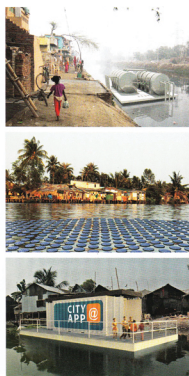
The city of tomorrow is fast, flexible, conscious, and water-based. It has the courage to think outside the box and not to rely on conventional ways that might prove insufficient to meet modern challenges.

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Wet Slums

One billion people live in slums and 50 percent of them are in wet slums. These people are the most vulnerable and neglected in upgrading programmes. By leasing floating functions in containers to entrepreneurs in slums, their quality of life can be improved. These so-called City Apps are flood-resistant, take up space only on water, not land, and can be moved to other locations and slums when situations change.

Rendering by Waterstudio NL



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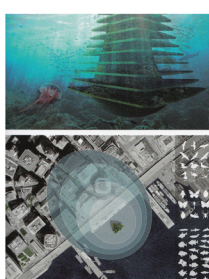
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Maldives 2.0

The Maldives are threatened by a sea level rise and lack of dry land. We developed the floating projects in a joint venture with the Maldivian government, who wanted to change their national profile from doomed climate refugees to drive innovation. The first projects will be high-end projects which encourage tourism, such as floating resorts and private floating islands, but eventually the architect plans to benefit the wider society by building affordable floating communities.

Rendering by Waterstudio NL and David Goodhardt



SeaTree

Green is under pressure in high density cities. Invert green floating solutions provide a habitat to fishes, birds, and insects and have a positive effect on the ecology of cities. Our architecture is based on existing oil industry technology.

Rendering by Waterstudio NL

