
Country / City USA, ITHACA (NYS)
University / School CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Academic year 2017-2018
Title of the project MEMORY OF DISTURBANCE AT THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER
Authors THACKSTON CRANDALL





PERFORMATIVE NATURE

Barcelona International Landscape Architecture Biennial

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SCHOOL PRIZE

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Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC

ETSAB- Escola Tècnica Superior

d'Arquitectura de Barcelona

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TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project MEMORY OF DISTURBANCE AT THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER
Authors Thackston Crandall
Title of the course 7020 Advanced landscape design studio (capstone)
Academic year 2017-2018
Teaching Staff Jamie Vanucchi, assistant professor
Department/Section/Program of belonging
Landscape Architecture Department, College of Agriculture and Life Science
University/School Cornell University

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

.....This project considers the Susquehanna River and its multifaceted disturbance regime of flooding. While focusing on the distur-
bance in the basin, I considered possible sites of resurgence following these floods. Resurgent communities, resurgent individuals,
resurgent ecologies, resurgent places, resurgen materials. I aimed to restructure community river relations by engaging communities
perception and memory of disturbance. My initial inquiry proved a problematic relationship between memory and flooding. Flooding
seems to persist in the memory of those who live along the Susquehanna for approximately 5 years. After 5 years pass people let
their guard down, they forget, they remove from their memory both past and future disturbances. The act of forgetting allows for a fal-
se sense of resurgence. The human response of "flood and forget" or "disturbance and dismiss" is indicative of the human temptation
to build safe imagined futures, thus "stopping" what looms in the future and mentally eradicating past, present, and future disturban-
ces. As landscape architects we often play a role in creating extremely convincing safe imagined futures. The idea of memory was
the medium in which I investigated and altered community river relations.

For further information

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Consult the web page <http://landscape.coac.net/>

MEMORY / FORGOTTEN

DISTURBANCE

1 DENIAL
CONFUSION
SHOCK
FEAR

Disturbance / Flood

2 ANGER
FRUSTRATION
IRRITATION
ANXIETY

Human Perseverance
to Overcome
Collective + Individual

3 DEPRESSION
OVERWHELMED
HELPLESSNESS
HOSTILITY

Re-Build and Recover

4 BARGAINING
STRUGGLE TO FIND MEANING
REACHING OUT TO OTHERS
TELLING ONE'S STORY

Habit Formation
Flood + Forget

5 ACCEPTANCE
EXPLORING OPTIONS
NEW PLAN IN PLACE
MOVE ON

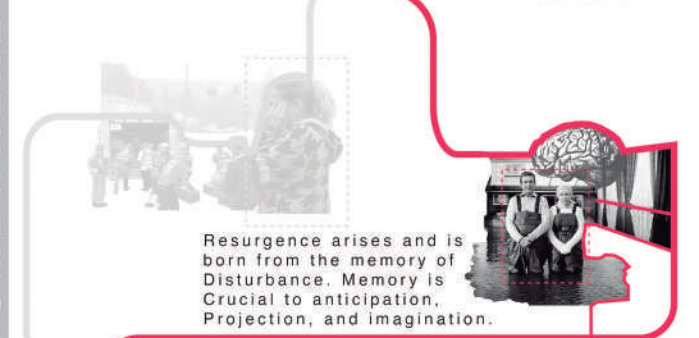
Negative Community River
Relationship

Year	Event	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	5 Years or Greater Since Last Flood	Flood Level	Precipitation	Flood Infrastructure	Cost of Damage	Number of People Affected	Death Toll	Personal Memories Documented
1846	MAR 18: Great Flood In The Susquehanna												
1857	FEB 13: Freshet In The Susquehanna												
1867	APR 18: Flood In The Susquehanna River												
1868	APR 18: Flood At Binghamton- Bridges Carried Away												
1902	MAR 03: Man Swept Away On Bridge- John Richardson Drowned In Destructive Flood At Binghamton JUL 22: High Water At Binghamton									\$100,000	1,000+ people		
1914	MAR 29: Rivers Booming In New York State									\$500,000			
1935	JUL 09: 20 Ayr Dead, Eight Missing More Than \$10,000,000 Loss In Central New York Flood JUL 09: Binghamton Area Hard Hit JUL 09: Flood Runs River Uphill And Amazes Binghamton JUL 09: Homes Reclaimed At Binghamton- Flood Buffers Begin Heart-Rending Task Of Making Houses Habitable JUL 11: The Dead And Missing In Flood Districts NOV 01: New Flood Sweeps Chenango Valley									\$100,000,000	100,000+ people	20	
1936	MAR 19: Binghamton Area Hard Hit By Flooding MAR 19: Woman Victim Tells Of Quick River Rise- She And Three Children Fled Home At Binghamton, Leaving All Possessions Behind MAR 19: Upstate Floods Force 2,000 To Flee From Homes- Drinking Water Is Running Low In Binghamton MAR 19: Entire Villages Under Waters Swirling Over Southern NY- Populous Areas Of Binghamton Cut Off MAR 20: 4,000 Persons Are Homeless Up- State As Waters Recede MAR 21: Binghamton Rejoices As Water Is Restored, Even If It Is Murky MAR 22: Binghamton's Hasty Plugging Alerts Gas Blast APR 19: Binghamton Opposes Local Aid AUG 16: 1936 Great Crowds Acclaim Roosevelt On Inspection Tour In Pennsylvania And Southern NY									\$100,000,000	100,000+ people	20	
1939	MAR 05: Flood Leaves On The Susquehanna									\$100,000,000			
1940	APR 02: 16,000 Flee Susquehanna Flood, 6 Die In Torrent									\$100,000,000	16,000 people	6	
1941	JAN 26: Earthen Dam To Curb Floods, Biggest In State, Nearly Ready									\$100,000,000			
1946	MAY 29: Susquehanna Floods Cause Ten Deaths MAY 29: Damage Is Heavy As Susquehanna Floods Wide Area									\$100,000,000	10,000 people	10	
1948	MAR 23: High Water, Businessmen In Flood Control Fight, Spring Brings Rising Rivers MAR 23: Rivers Are Rising In New York State- Susquehanna And Chenango Flood 2,000 Homes As The Snow Feeds Streams MAR 28: Binghamton's Flood Control Proves Worth- With Only First Of 7 Dams Completed, City Escapes Damage By High Water MAR 28: Where Upstate Flood-Control Project Is Under Way									\$100,000,000	2,000+ homes		
1951	FEB 10: Ice-Jam Flood on Susquehanna									\$100,000,000	10,000+ people		
1961	FEB 10: Flood Savings Cited On Susquehanna River									\$100,000,000			
1963	MAR 09: Residents On Susquehanna Asked to Keep Flood Alert									\$100,000,000			
1972	JUN 25: East Coast Flood Ebbs, At Least 94 Dead JUL 02: Some Plans Talk About Flooding									\$100,000,000	10,000+ people	10	
1974	FEB 15: Army Sets Susquehanna Flood Curbs									\$100,000,000			
1975	SEP 29: Susquehanna Flood Victims Thankful It Wasn't Worse SEP 29: Two Farmers Drown In Flood's Aftermath									\$100,000,000	10,000+ people	2	
1996	JAN 22: Deadly Waters Spread Devastation, Fear Statewide									\$100,000,000			
2004	SEP 19: Wonder Why These Years Between 100-Year Floods Seem To Fly By? - Statistics, "Step-Logs" And Water Woes At Aids To Story Of Our Area's Latest Flood SEP 20: Two Inches Of Extra Rain Equals 10 9 Feet Of River Over Flood Stage									\$100,000,000			
2005	APR 03: The Battle Against The Deluge- A Susquehanna River Crest Of 39.35 Feet Is Expected. Meanwhile, Unprotected Areas Flood.									\$100,000,000			
2006	JUN 29: Deadly Floodwaters Wreak Havoc Upstate- Guard Activated In Binghamton, PA Hit Hard JUN 29: Homes Swept Away, 148 Carved JUN 29: Flooding Causes Three Deaths, Tramples State Of Emergency									\$100,000,000	148 people	3	
2011	SEP 10: For Southern Tier Of New York, More Flooding As Susquehanna Sets Records SEP 11: Susquehanna Floodwaters Recede, But The Threat Remains									\$100,000,000	10,000		
2012	SEP 09: A Year After Tropical Storm Lee, Cleanup Continues									\$100,000,000			

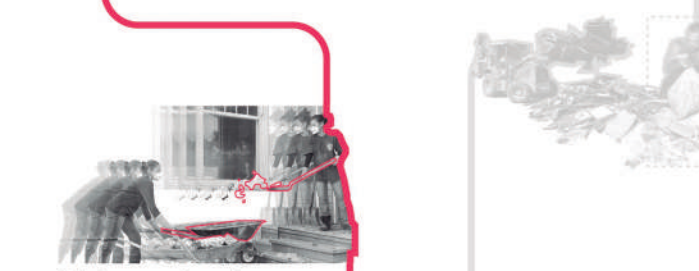
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN



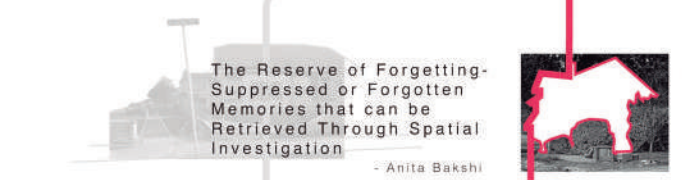
Imagine the past to recall
The future
- Carlos Fuentes



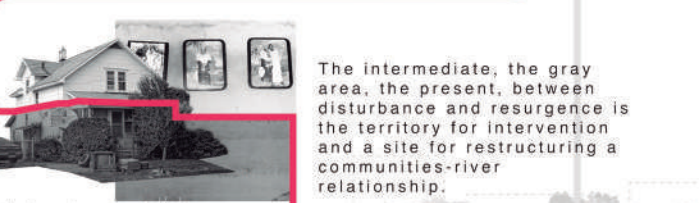
Resurgence arises and is born from the memory of Disturbance. Memory is crucial to anticipation, Projection, and imagination.



Habit re-engineering
Habit forces engagement
and a coming to terms with
memory, disturbance, and
the river.



The Reserve of Forgetting-
Suppressed or Forgotten
Memories that can be
Retrieved Through Spatial
Investigation
- Anita Bakshi



The intermediate, the gray
area, the present, between
disturbance and resurgence
is the territory for intervention
and a site for restructuring a
communities-river
relationship.



Spatial and material
Investigations are aimed at
stirring up potent responses
to potent disturbances.

MATERIAL + MEMORY

