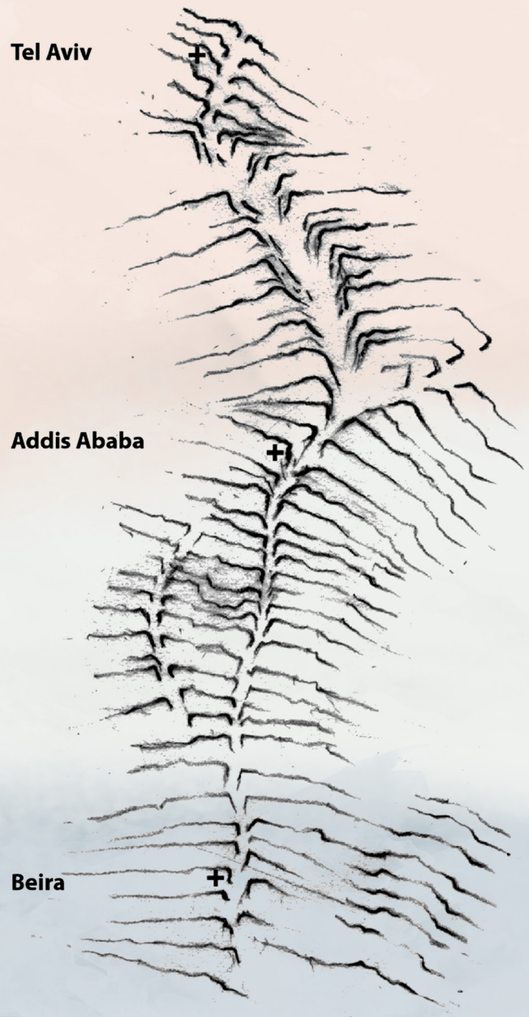
THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY

CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBANIZATION ALONG A GLOBAL TRANSECT



Country / City	The Great Rift Valley | Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Beira, Mozambique
University / School	Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Academic year	2019-2020
Title of the project	The Great Rift Valley: Climate Change and Urbanization Along a Global Transect
Authors	Urban Design Water Urbanism Studio Spring 2020

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	The Great Rift Valley: Climate Change and Urbanization Along a Global Transect
Authors	Urban Design Water Urbanism Studio Spring 2020
Title of the course	Urban Design Water Urbanism Studio Spring 2020
Academic year	2019-2020
Teaching Staff	Kate Orff (Coordinator) Lee Altman, Adriana Chavez, Dilip da Cunha, Fitsum Gelaye, Geeta Mehta, Thad Pawlowski, and Julia Watson
Department/Section/Program of belonging	MS in Architecture and Urban Design Program
University/School	Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

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

The Great Rift Valley marks a global transect along geological fault lines. It's an **active space of movement and exchange** spanning watery crevices and fertile landscapes from the Jordan River Valley in the Middle East to the Zambezi Delta; in these extensive shallows, fresh river water meets the Indian Ocean in Mozambique. The tectonic plates underlying the Rift are pulling away from each other, and **expanding socio-political fractures** on the surface follow suit. The **2020 spring semester Urban Design Studio** explored how **three cities along the Rift**—Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Beira, Mozambique—might forge **systems and spaces** to span this divide amid rapid urbanization and while grappling with the unique **impacts of the climate crisis**. This mapping project evinces the **interrelated risks faced by vulnerable populations** along the Great Rift Valley. These include **extreme heat** in Tel Aviv, **flash flooding** due to river floodplain development in Addis Ababa, and **coastal inundation and disaster recovery** in Beira, which was struck by Cyclone Idai in 2019. The studio's visionary design strategies propose **new forms of urban living** that embrace the **complexity of water**, which is critical to maintaining life along the Rift; the strategies **foster social interactions through local stewardship and empowerment models**. Marked with fossil evidence from the beginning of human civilization, the Great Rift Valley encourages bold thinking about Earth's next 100 years of habitability. The Rift suggests **new approaches to social and ecological life** that bridge global and local economies and furthers **site-specific proposals** that advance **resilient urban design** in each context.

For further information
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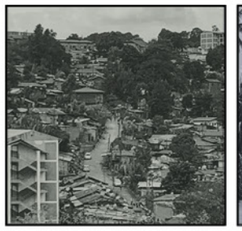
CLIMATE CHANGE AGAIN

11th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

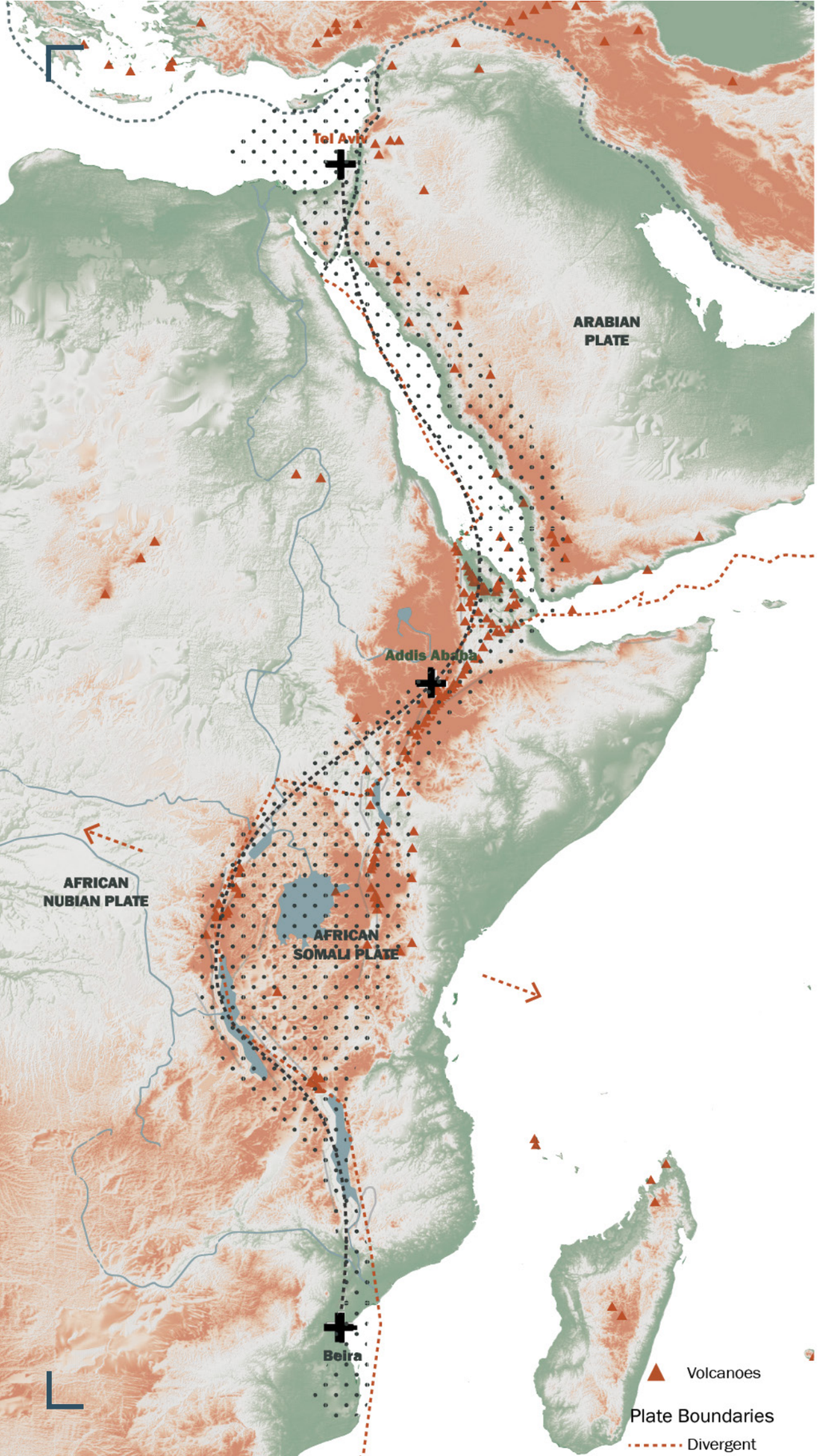
Barcelona September 2020

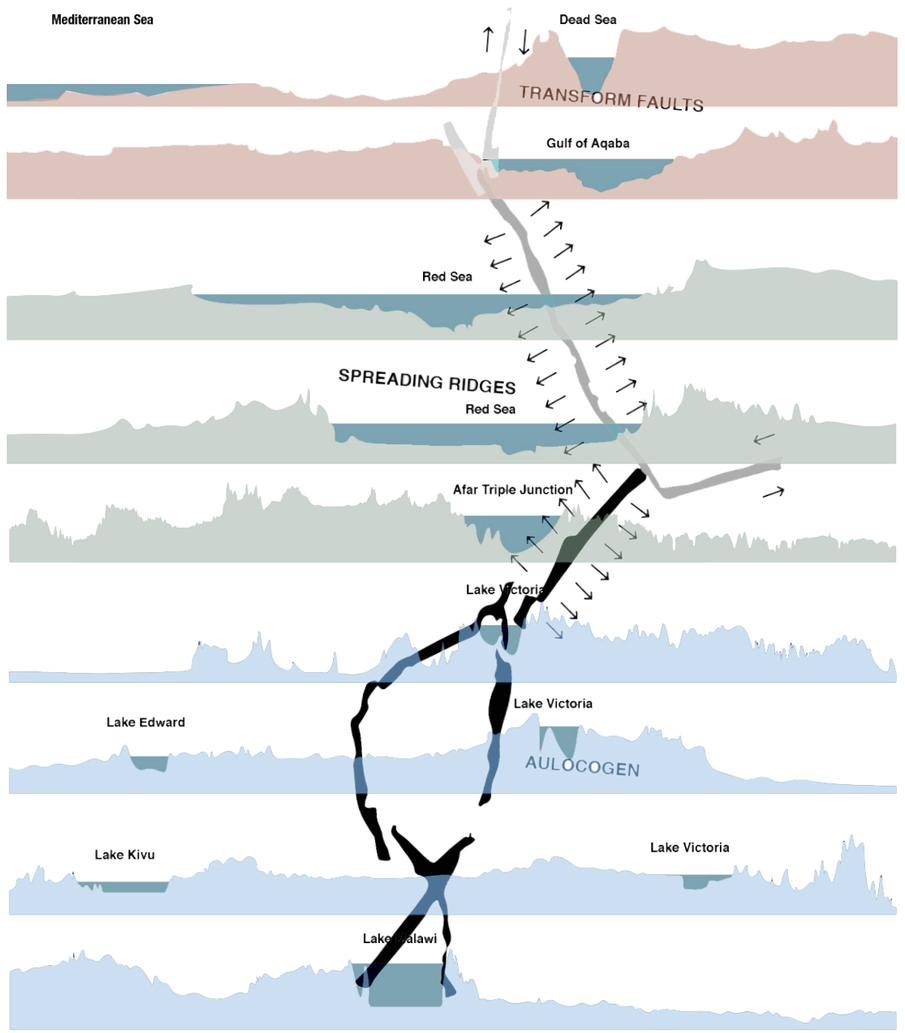
SCHOOL PRIZE

RIFT METAPHORS

	TEL-AVIV	ADDIS ABABA	BEIRA	TEL-AVIV	ADDIS ABABA	BEIRA
FORMAL / INFORMAL						
URBAN / RURAL						
LAND / WATER						
DOMINANT / MARGINAL						
COLONIZING / COLONIZED						
MANMADE / NATURAL						

RIFT WATERS





The rivers channelization and the extractive infrastructure in the Mediterranean Sea creates a disappearing water-scape under pressure from urbanization

Tel Aviv-Yafo

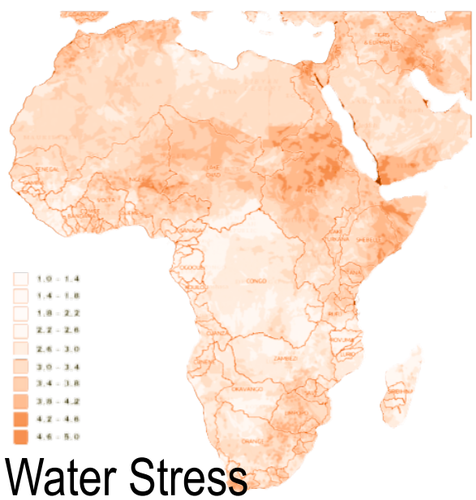
System of rivers branching out from the mountains to south, creating rich and diverse ecosystem. Currently Contaminated and in risk of concretization

Addis Ababa

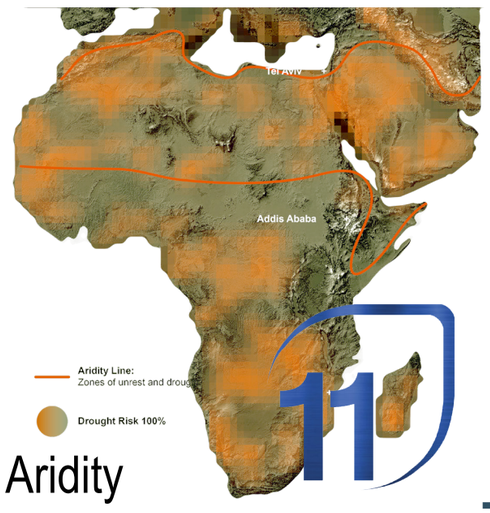
Cyclone-prone flat coastal region with a shortening rain season introduces the potential for a new multi-scalar water infrastructure landscape

Beira

Dams



Water Stress



Aridity

RIFT MIGRATIONS