

# CAPITheticAL

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## **BIG IDEAS. BIG FUTURE.**

A design ideas competition for a hypothetical Australian capital city.

## **SECOND - \$30,000**

**PROJECT NAME:** Sedimentary City Canberra by Brit Andresen and Mara Francis

### **TEAM MEMBER NAMES**

Brit Andresen

Mara Francis

### **DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY**

#### **SEDIMENTARY CITY**

In response to changing conditions, cities periodically grow and shrink and some fall into ruin leaving only fragments - seemingly to vanish, like many First Cities of pre-history.

Cities are therefore rarely built from 'scratch' but are, over time, overlaid city-layer upon city-layer – so that within each new city-layer there are remnants of all previous cities.

#### **CAPITheticAL SCENARIO**

By mid 21st century most cities in Australia are experiencing falling population numbers, increasingly severe weather events including drought, fire, earthquake, flood and sea inundation whilst simultaneously enduring food, water and energy rationing and the after-effects of a pandemic. The capital city of Australia, Canberra, through inspired national leadership, has led the way forward in first adapting successfully to change and setting an example for the re-shaping of all cities to better defend and nurture their citizens.

#### **SEDIMENTARY CITY CANBERRA**

The process of a Sedimentary City project involves a looking-back to look forward (and, looking forward to look back), in order to view the city as consisting of many cities coexisting in both spatial and temporal contexts and to inform the making of the future city. It is fairly self evident that the contemporary city has a spatial dimension and also that within it we see something of the past and already see something of the future.

This process not only offers a basis for analysis and critique of the city but also invites the envisioning of alternative futures and in so doing looks to find balance, order and continuity between the nature of the first city and the built environment of the contemporary city to re-interpret this towards clarifying a vision for the survival of the future city.

In the CAPITheticAL Canberra project the process of 'looking back' has involved a study of the 1829 First City layer, Griffins' City layer and a review of contemporary Canberra, the Now City layer, reaffirming the long established history of inhabitation. The 'looking forward' has tested the implications of forecast worst-case environmental, economic and social catastrophes for the city through the city layers of Business-as-Usual Canberra Flood City and Inferno City.

Emerging from the post-catastrophe Recovery City is CAPITheticAL Canberra.



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### **TEAM BIOGRAPHY**

Brit Andresen and Mara Francis are founding members of A+UIC (Architecture and Urban Innovations Collaborative) based in Brisbane Australia.

As designers and independent researchers we collaborate for architectural projects and for generating debate about redefining relationships and associations with the physical and cultural landscape of settlements.

Our work in both Australia and abroad parallels projects that are interwoven with the fields of architecture, cultural landscapes, urbanism and art.

### **BRIT ANDRESEN BIOGRAPHY**

M.Arch (Trondheim Norway)

LFRAIA Norwegian architect Brit Andresen practices and teaches in Australia where she is Professor Emeritus at The University of Queensland.

Her current practice and research includes building design with landscape, the relation of architecture to urban change and relationships between ideas / practice and she contributes to projects in collaboration with BAMF/A+UIC.

### **MARA FRANCIS BIOGRAPHY**

Mara Francis studied architecture at the University of Queensland graduating in 1998 with first class Honors. Mara Francis has practiced in Brisbane, Malaysia and Ireland and more recently Riga, Latvia. Through practice and research in architecture and urban design she has been exploring ways to integrate the built and natural environment, at the reach of the individual, community and city. Mara Francis is a designer in Brisbane and researches in collaboration with BAMF/A+UIC.

Ref: [www.a-uic.com](http://www.a-uic.com)

