

LO—TEK

Infrastructures of an Ancestral Future

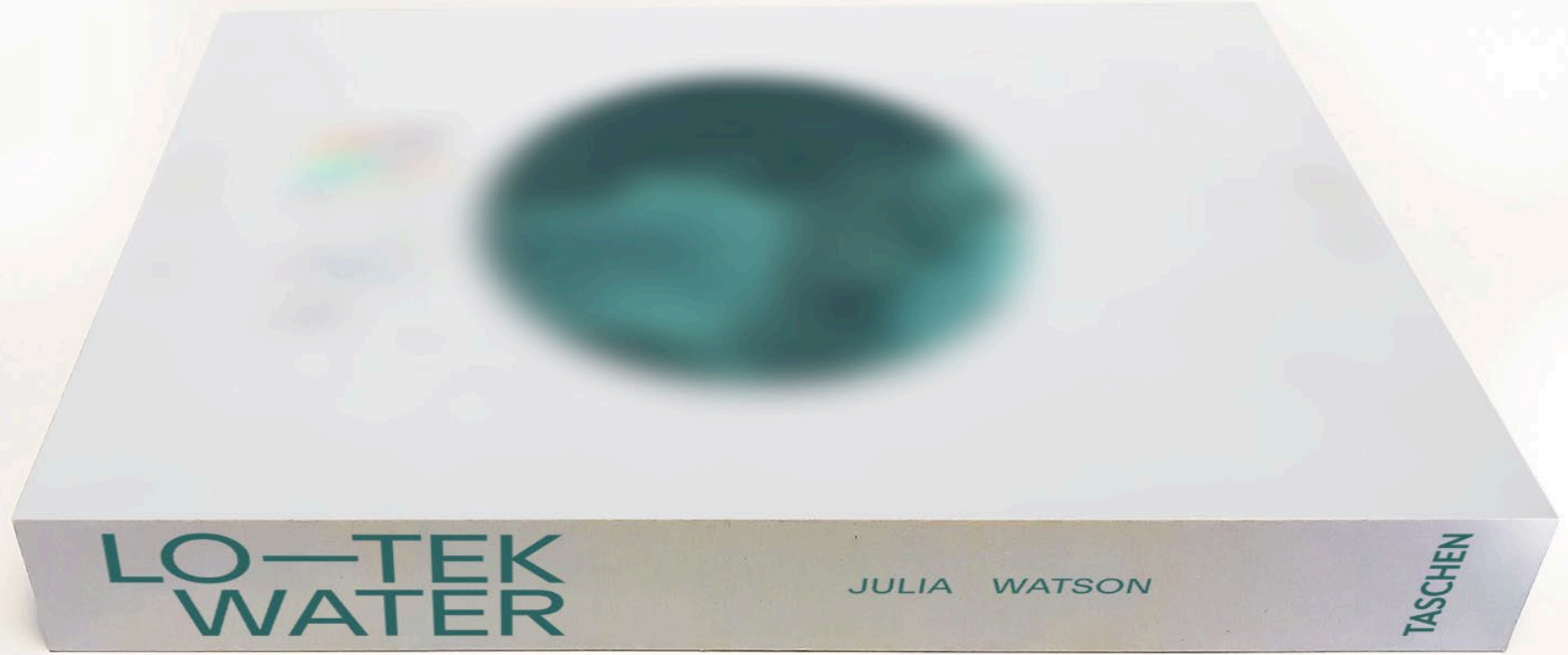
Julia Watson





Lo—tech









300,000 seabirds

3,500 sea otters

300 harbor seals

250 bald eagles

22 killer whales

*"oil in the water, lots of oil
killing lots of water. Never
in the millennium of our
tradition have we thought it
possible for the water to
die, but it's true."*

Chief Walter Meganack

Lo—TEK Specs

1.0 *living*

2.0 *coevolutionary*

3.0 *coenergetic*

4.0 *symbiotic*

5.0 *cyclical*

Frameworks

*FAO
Food-Water-Energy
Nexus*

*IPCC
Adaptation
Pathway*

*World Bank NBS
Categories + Functions
+ Benefits*

1.0 Lo-TEK are living

1.1 For their entire material life cycles, ancestral infrastructures are composed of complex, responsive and emergent patterns of interactions between organisms and their environments.



"It's big, vast networks of knowledge, and people inquiring and exchanging what they've seen, [...] over quite a big period of time, and [...] distance [...] networks of verification and falsification, systems of knowledge, peer review processes [...] In a lot of ways, indigenous knowledge processes are really similar to science—when science is working."

Tyson Yunkaporta

2.0 *Lo-TEK are coevolutionary*

2.1 *They survived alongside successive multiples of generations, using limited resources and adapting to environmental conditions.*

Swinomish Clam Garden of the Coast Salish, US







Shinnecock Kelp Farm of Long Island, US



3.0 *Lo-TEK are coenergetic*

3.1 *They are activated by sustainable and nonexploitative passive processes or dynamic flows.*



Ramli Sand Islands of the Tunisians, Tunisia





Baira Floating Islands of the Bhumihin Krishok, Bangladesh

Chinampa Islands of the Nahua Xochimilca, Mexico





Enter →



Social

<https://www.lo-tek.com/technologies>



Email *



Email

4.0 *Lo-TEK are symbiotic*

4.1 *They create conditions for interspecies exchanges, and then rely on those relationships to function.*

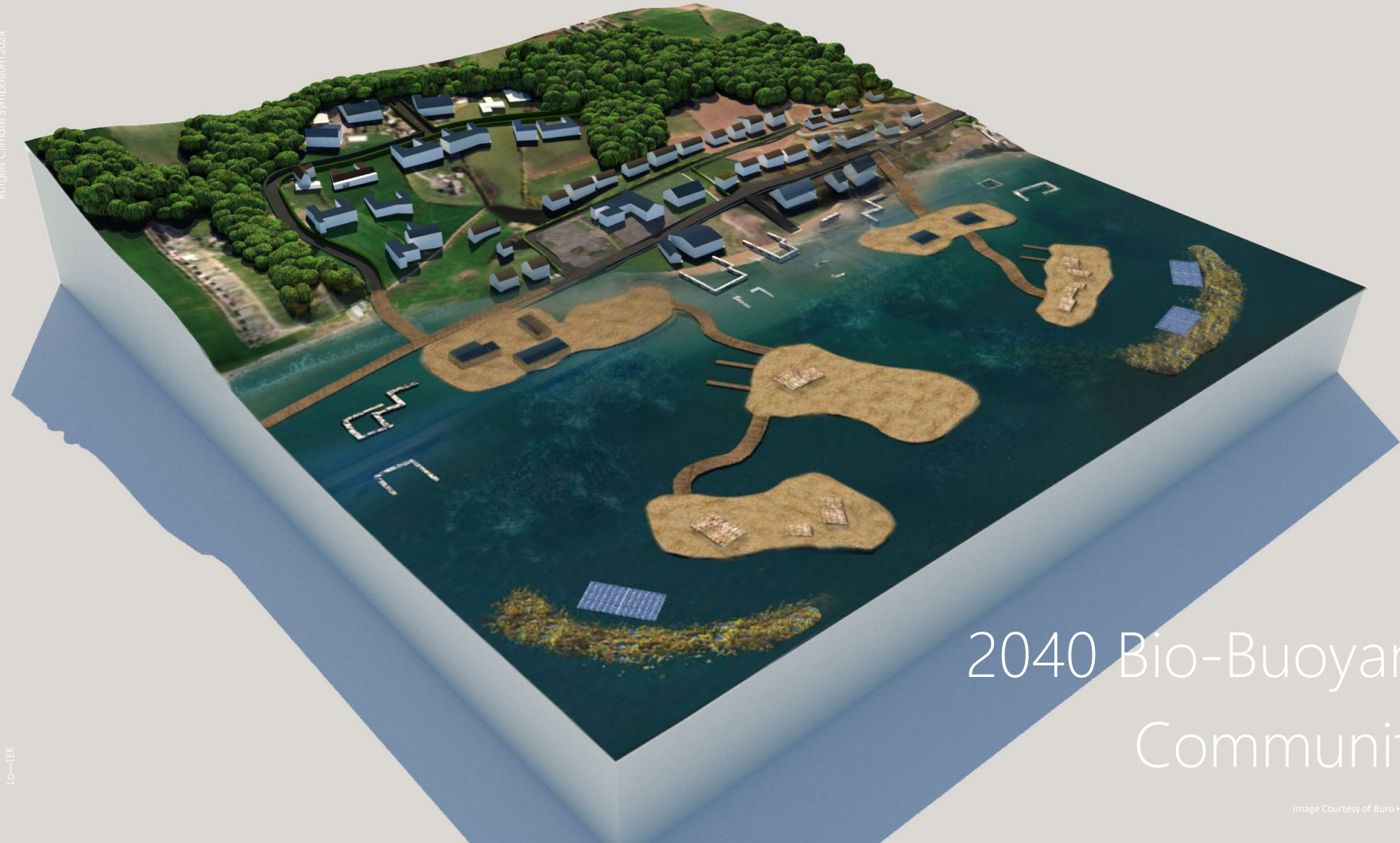
Symbiocene





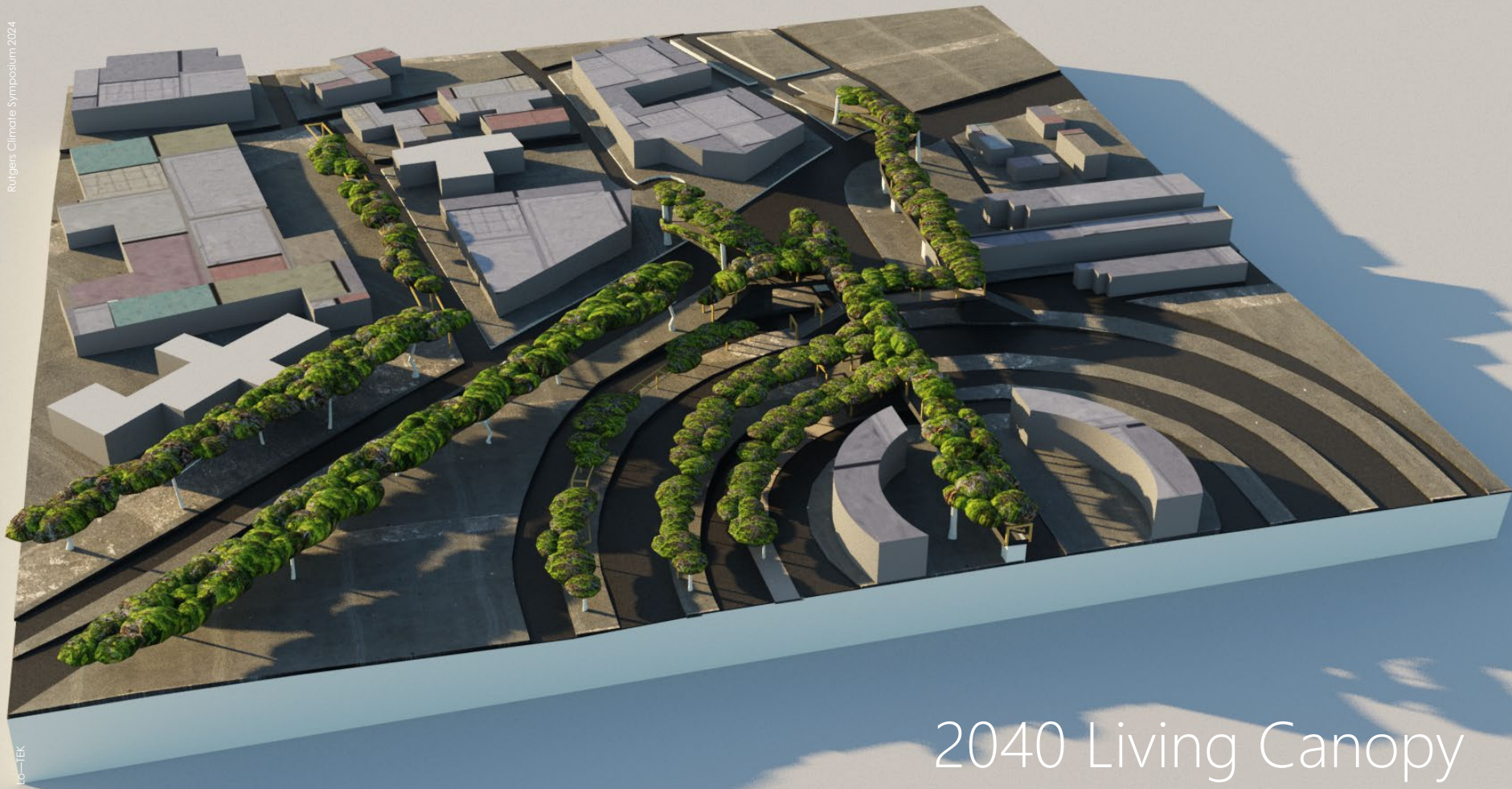
2040 Water Sharing & Cleansing

Image Courtesy of Buro Happold



2040 Bio-Buoyant Community

Image Courtesy of Buro Happold



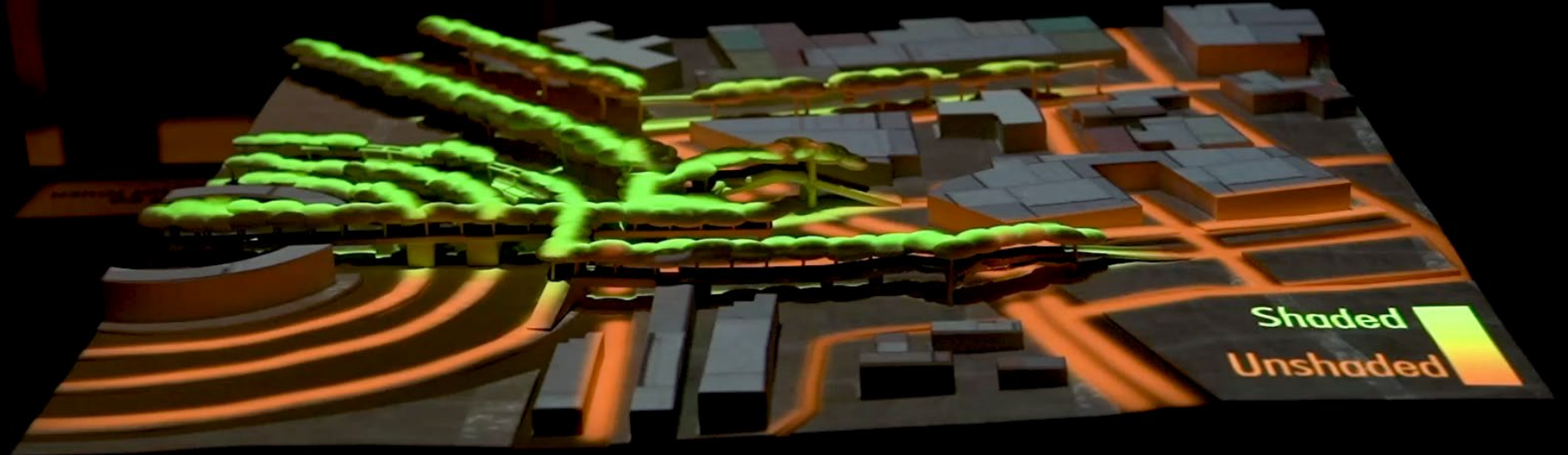
2040 Living Canopy

Image Courtesy of Buro Happold









SMART OATH OF UNDERSTANDING [SOoU]

STATEMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND INVOCATION

I, [insert name and role], who represents and has the authority to speak for and bind [insert name of entity], being [insert name of legal entity] and its associated entities, stand before you, [insert name of addressee], who represents the [insert name of community/people]. [Recognize any other individuals, entities, ancestors, and places customarily recognized].

PART 2: RECOGNITION OF VALUABLE TECHNOLOGY

Your people and your ancestors have developed [insert name of traditional ecological technology]. Your





SEAWEED THATCH
REIMAGINED

SWITCH-BOARD

DESCRIPTION PROJECT
Construction of a
KATHRYN LARSEN
"Seaweed Thatch"
MATERIAL
DESIGN LAB
WEB

Seaweed Thatch Reimagined of Studio Kathryn Larsen, Denmark

Image Courtesy of Studio Kathryn Larsen



Seaweed Thatch Reimagined of Studio Kathryn Larsen, Denmark

5.0 *Lo-TEK are cyclical*

5.1 *They are triggered by the repetition of the sun rising and setting; days, seasons, years; birth, life, and death—in opposition to the irreversible, linear construct of time, as past, present, and future.*



Totora Floating Islands of the Uros, Peru



Totora Reed Insulation of Centro Tierra, Peru





Indammasat University Rooftop Farm of LANDPROCESS, Thailand

Image Courtesy of Taschen



Sanya Mangrove Park of Turenscape, China

Image Courtesy of Taschen

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ASLA Call to Action

Co-Create a Future that Heals Land and Culture

This call to action was developed by a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners;

As landscape architects, we have a profound responsibility to design spaces that respect and regenerate the land. To truly achieve this, we must learn from and integrate Indigenous perspectives and practices that have sustained ecosystems and communities for millennia.

We invite landscape architects to take the following actions:

Respect Indigenous Knowledge: Indigenous knowledge offers invaluable insights into living in harmony with the natural world, preserving biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and creating spaces that nurture both people and the planet. Seek out opportunities to learn from Indigenous leaders, scholars, and practitioners. Understand the histories, cultures, and relationships with the land that Indigenous communities hold. Learn how you can guide non-Indigenous communities to understand and apply traditional and indigenous knowledge in a respectful and responsible way. We can support and respect Indigenous-led movements that aim to reclaim ancestral lands along with the cultural, spiritual, ecological, and healing values that come with the land.

Empower Future Generations: Advocate for greater reciprocity between Indigenous knowledge systems and landscape architecture education. Provide better access to Indigenous knowledge by encouraging the institutionalization of dismissed voices, histories, knowledge, and technologies in landscape architecture education. Provide better access for Indigenous students and professionals to landscape architectural education. Their voices and perspectives are essential to shaping a future where design supports the sovereignty, health, and well-being of Indigenous peoples and all communities.

Engage with ASLA: Help us build an Indigenous landscape architects' network of ASLA members and work in collaboration with groups like the Indigenous Society of Architecture, Planning, and Design. And join us in Practice Basecamp following the general session to continue the conversation and learn more about ways to connect with and support Indigenous landscape architecture students and professionals.

Together, let's expand our role as custodians of the planet, learn from Indigenous ways of knowing, and deepen our relationship with place and first peoples to co-create a future where landscape architects contribute to the healing of land and culture.

Find out more at www.asla.org/healinglandandculture.aspx