TRANSLATING SPACES
Designing for Climate Migrants

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Theme 4: Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development
LAND - SEA
CULTURE

CLIMATE CHANGE
MIGRATION
NEW PLACES
OLD CULTURES

CONSERVATION
RESILIENCE

INDIGENOUS WORLD VIEWS
CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE
HAVING IMPACT

SYNTHESIZING THROUGH LOCAL STUDIES

1. TRANSLATING SPACE
2. LANDSCAPE AS MIDDLE GROUND
3. INDIGENOUS ECOLOGIES
**Problem statement**

Relocation in the Pacific is evident as an adaptation to climate change.

Migration to non-customary lands will increasingly become an adaptation technique.

Climate change threatens not only land, livelihood and habitat, migration threatens culture.
Climate Change Risk in the Pacific

Risks: Sea-level rise; water resource depletion; coral reef degradation; agriculture; human health (Campbell and Bedford)

Cumulative effects: Poor land and sea management practices; and waste management practices
Climate Change Risk in Fiji

Cyclone Winston
Research question

How can communities retain cultural identity within the places of the diaspora?
Methodology

Mapping histories and trajectories of migration, to understand movement patterns.
Engaging with the Fijian diaspora community, learn about their cultural practice in the context of Aotearoa.
Spatial design in diaspora sites in New Zealand for Fijian migrants, to ‘translate’ culture.
CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

Migration
Migration as Adaptation

Movement within customary lands

Domestic relocation outside customary lands (i.e. to freehold land or to another group’s freehold land)

International migration of individuals

Planned community relocation

(Campbell 2014: Climate Change Migration in the Pacific, p17)
Map: historic migrations (Yarina)
Connected Pacific

Map: historic migrations (Yarina)
Currents of connection

Map: historic migrations (Yarina)
Map: contemporary migrations (Yarina)
Labour Migration maps: Chelsea Kershaw, Katherine Hailstone, Anna Soby
Fijians in Aotearoa

Fijian Village, Pasifika Festival, Auckland NZ
Landscape Architecture Studio:
Designing for Climate Migration
Migrant worker analysis, Billy Pearce
Embedding cultural meaning in spaces

Consultation with migrant community:
It recognised the trauma associated with migration, even for those with migratory histories.
It reinforced the economic difficulties: a shared problem that migrants faced.
It reinforced the importance of common /public space as a place to share past and present culture.
It reinforced the spiritual and physical importance of the relationship between land, water, church, storytelling, food and sport.
DESIGN OUTCOMES:
Hybrid spaces for Fijian climate migrants in New Zealand
A network of Fijian spaces for Kilbirnie, Wellington
A Fijian Growing Cooperative in Kilbirnie

Design: Leocadie Pelbois
A Fijian Growing Cooperative

Design: Leocadie Pelbois
Fijian Spaces for storytelling in Kilbirnie

Design: Ninon Migrayou
A Fijian Lovo and Waterfront

Design: Freddie Bensemann
A network of Fijian spaces for Martinborough
A Rugby Pitch for Fijian and Pacific Migrants

Design: Billy Pearce
A Rugby Pitch for Fijian and Pacific Migrants

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A Rugby Pitch for Fijian and Pacific Migrants

Design: Billy Pearce
LARGER IMPLICATIONS:
Translating Spaces and Migrating Heritage
Culture at work

The projects highlight culture as a dynamic rather than a static concept.
They show the importance of a network of cultural spaces.
They show how qualities of an existing place can exist with new cultural input.
They show how design can encourage place-based cultures to adapt to ex-situ sites, allowing essential cultural practices to persist while new ones develop
Scale

Each project used the mappings to influence design by examining coastal vulnerability, transportation and trade routes across the Asia-Pacific region at a range of scales. A series of issues emerged. These broad themes became key drivers for the individual design schemes and their island-wide or regional ripple effects.

This studio positions site design relative to the complex problems of our era (such as climate change displacement) without defaulting to mega-scale ‘solutions’. It shows the importance in landscape design to understand and engage with the larger-scale implications of site based designs and the problems faced at the local level.
Conclusions

While housing and jobs are important, our work suggests creating space for cultural practice will be an equally important endeavour, and explores how these spaces can encourage larger community-buildings as well.

Beyond Aotearoa, as climate change redraws borders and mobilizes populations, modes of design practice which can accommodate the needs of migratory and displaced populations will become increasingly important.
Questions?