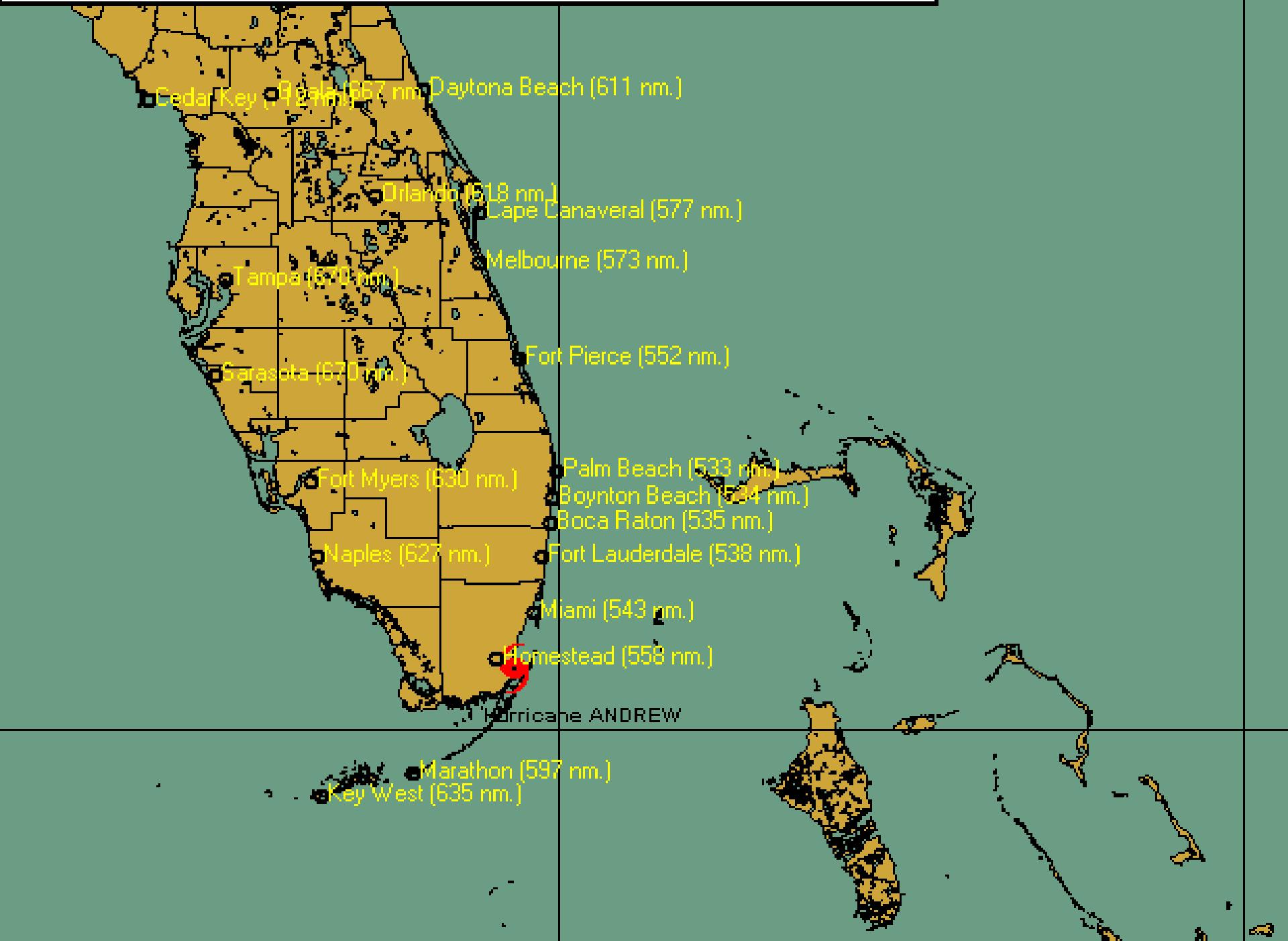


SAFETY URBANISM

a design manual to address sea level rise and
climate change for urban areas in the coastal zones

Jeffrey E. Huber FAIA, ASLA, NCARB, LEEDap, WEDG









Cities Most Vulnerable to Coastal Flooding Today

Top 25 cities and their populations at risk (thousands) within FEMA's 100-year coastal floodplain

1.	New York	245	14.	Lauderhill, Fla.	66
2.	Miami	126	15.	Charleston, S.C.	64
3.	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	116	16.	Cape Coral, Fla.	59
4.	Coral Springs, Fla.	115	17.	Tamarac, Fla.	58
5.	Miramar, Fla.	93	18.	Margate, Fla.	50
6.	St. Petersburg, Fla.	88	19.	Tampa, Fla.	50
7.	Davie, Fla.	87	20.	Fountainebleau, Fla.	48
8.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	85	21.	Miami Gardens, Fla.	44
9.	Miami Beach, Fla.	85	22.	Country Club, Fla.	43
10.	Hialeah, Fla.	76	23.	Atlantic City, N.J.	37
11.	Sunrise, Fla.	74	24.	North Lauderdale, Fla.	37
12.	Pompano Beach, Fla.	73	25.	Kendale Lakes, Fla.	37
13.	Hollywood, Fla.	69			

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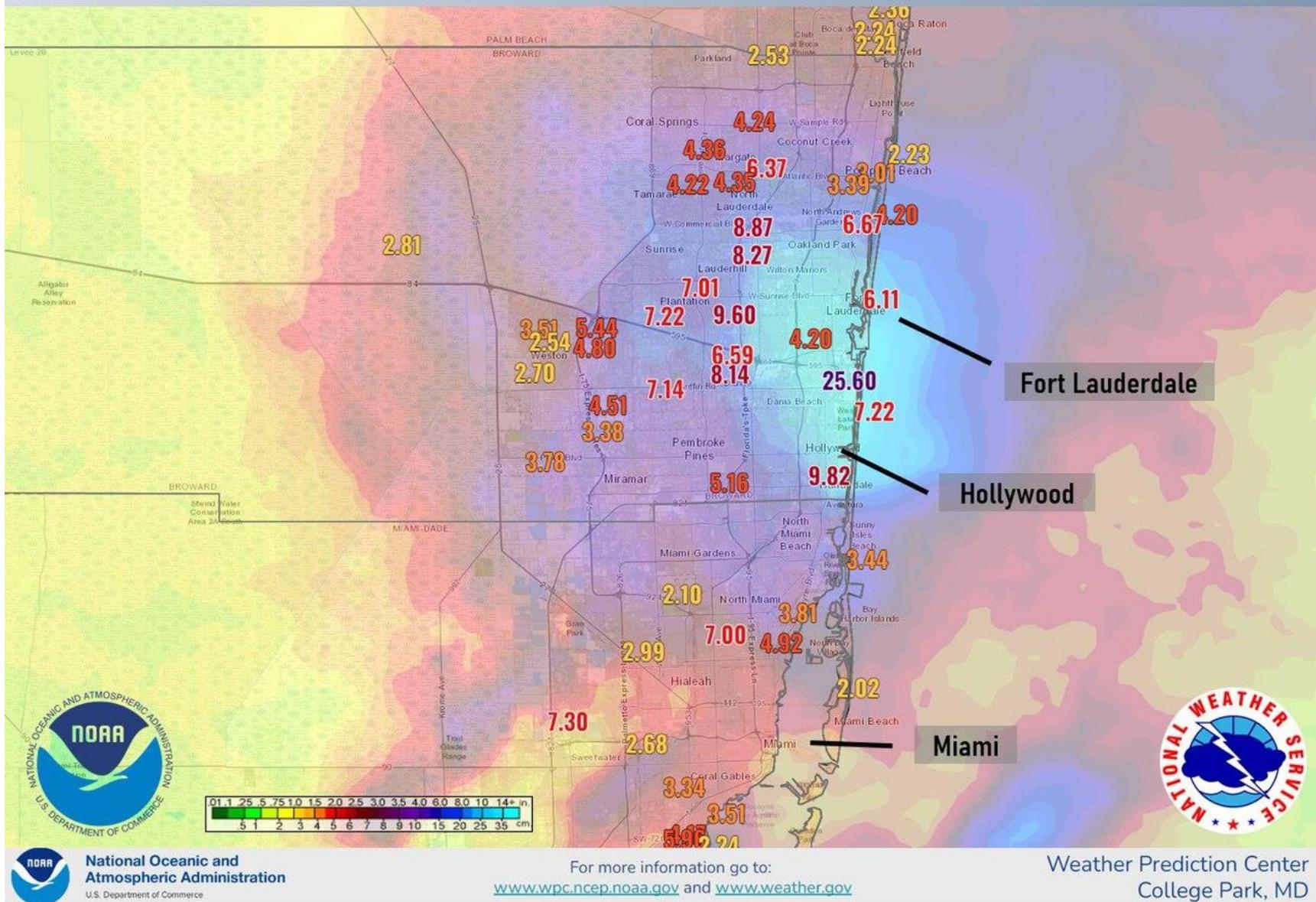
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NWS Preliminary 24-hr Estimated Rainfall, Observed Precipitation

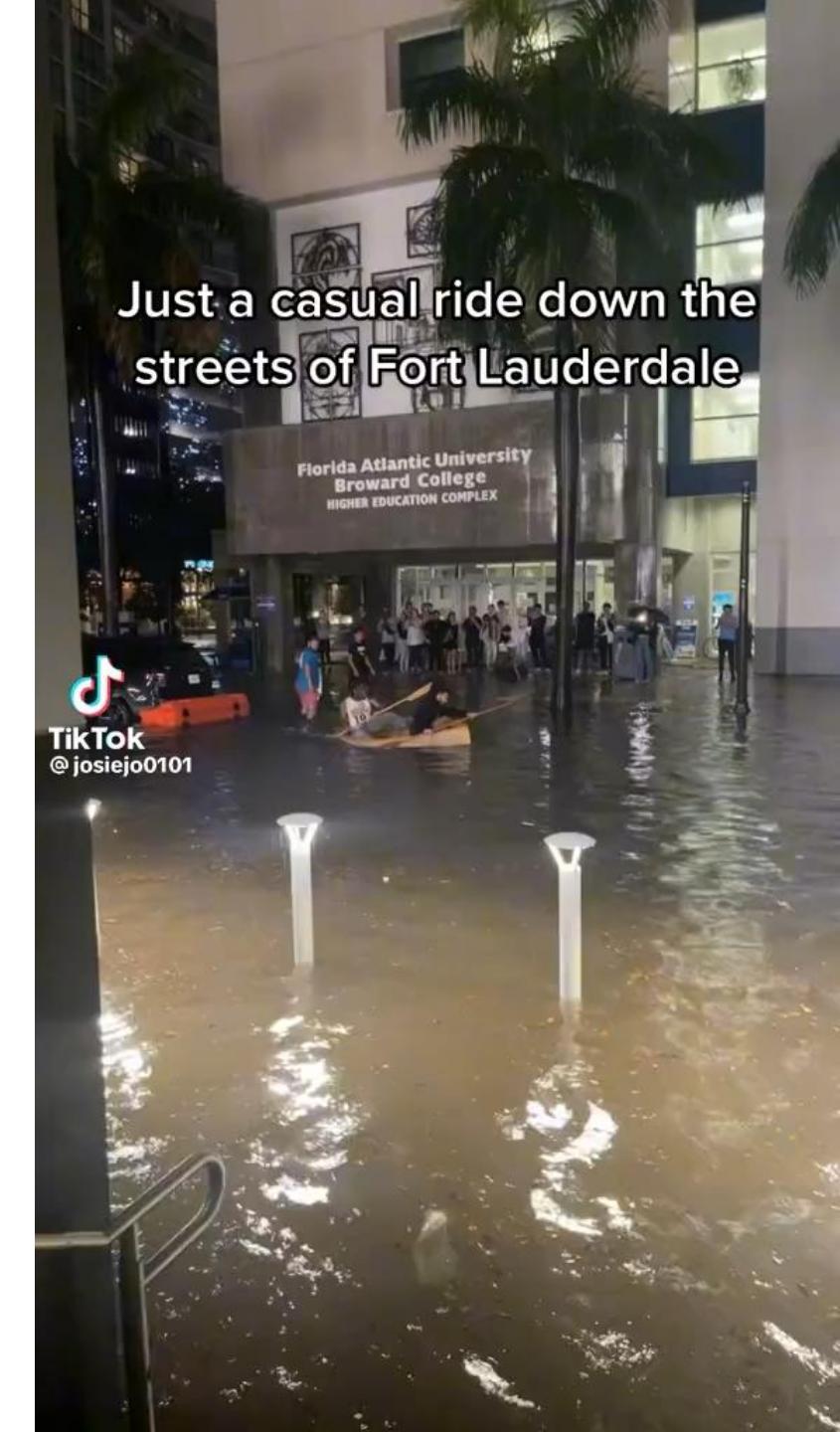


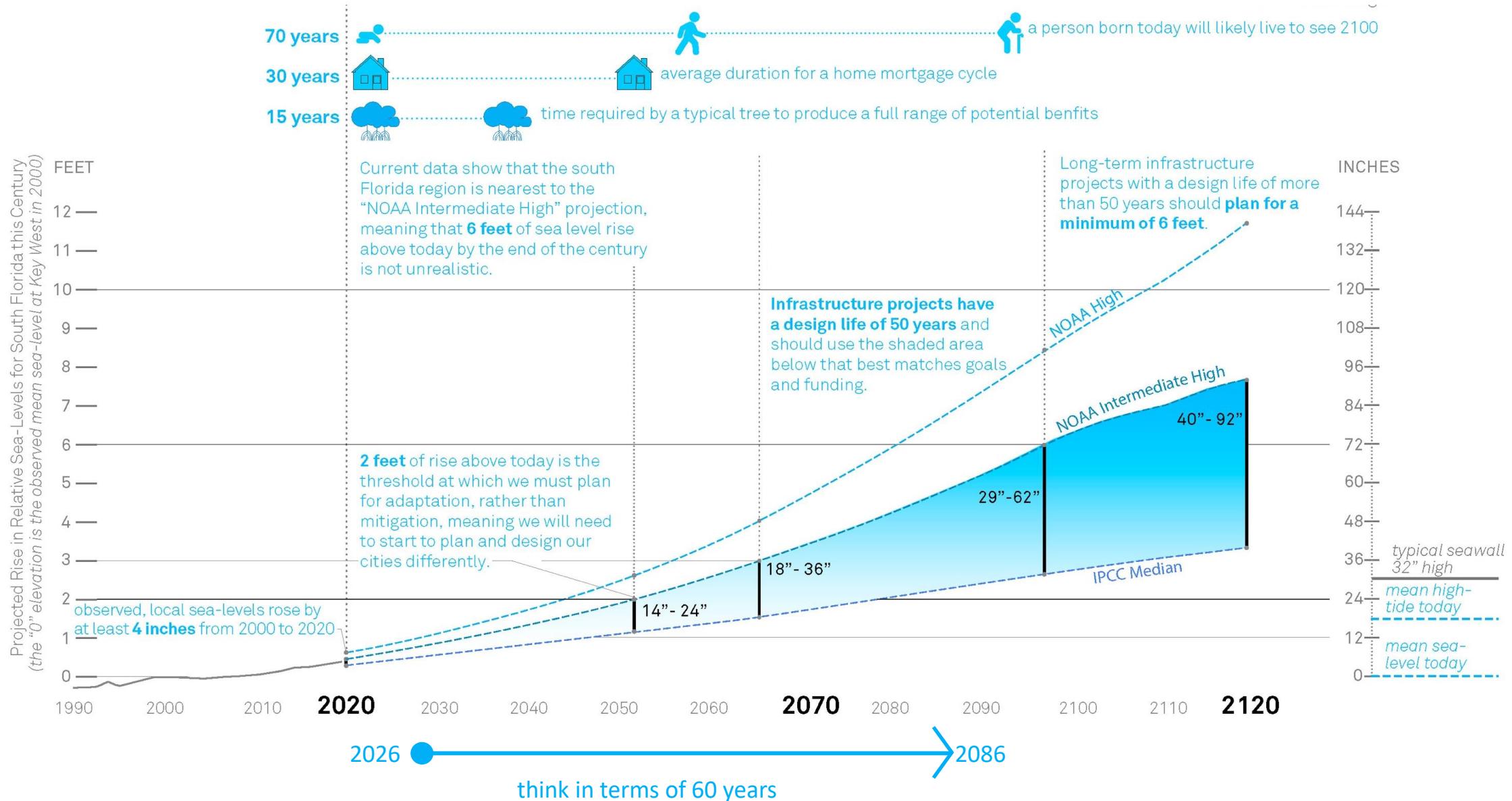




Just a casual ride down the
streets of Fort Lauderdale

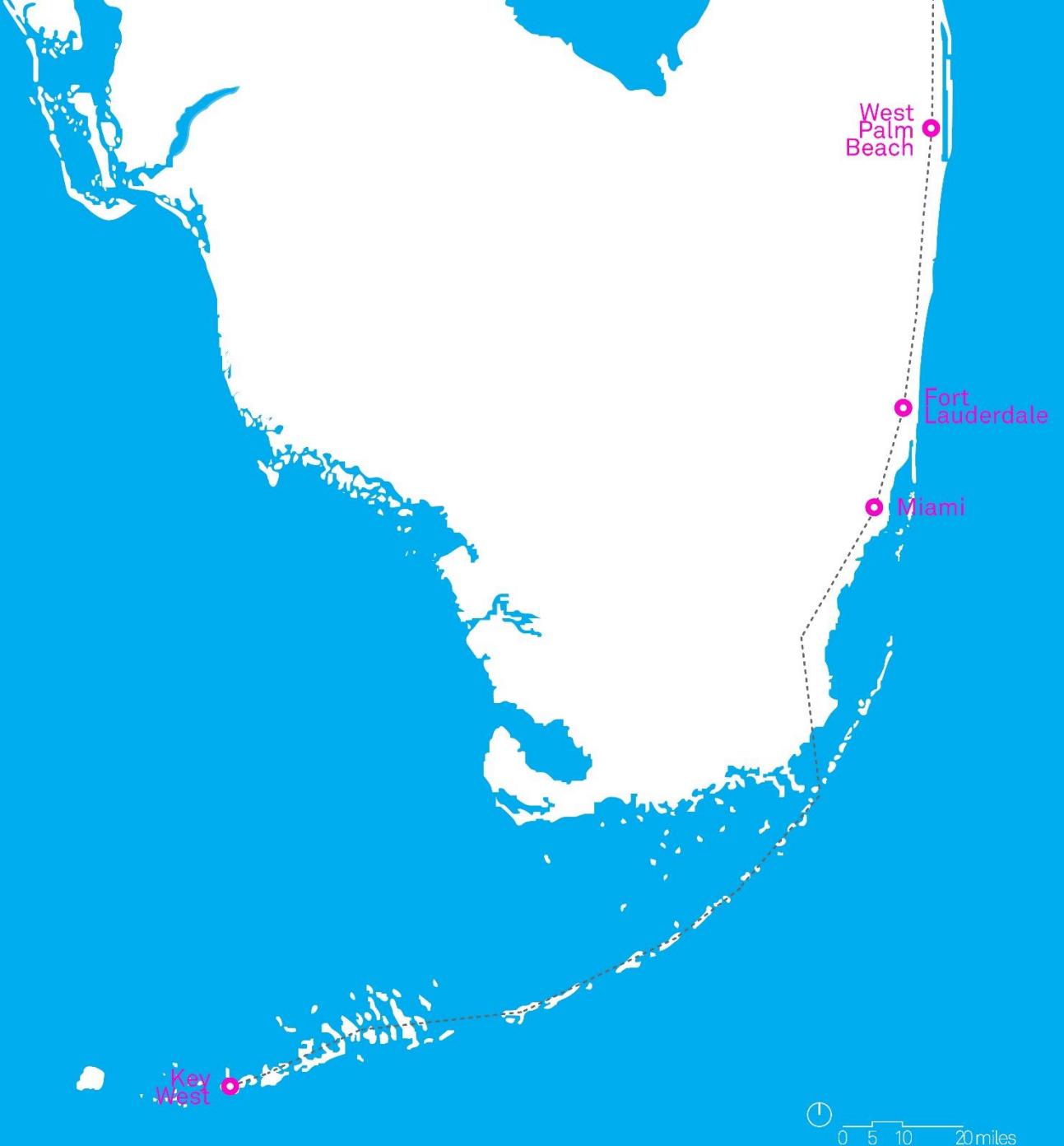
TikTok
@josiejo0101



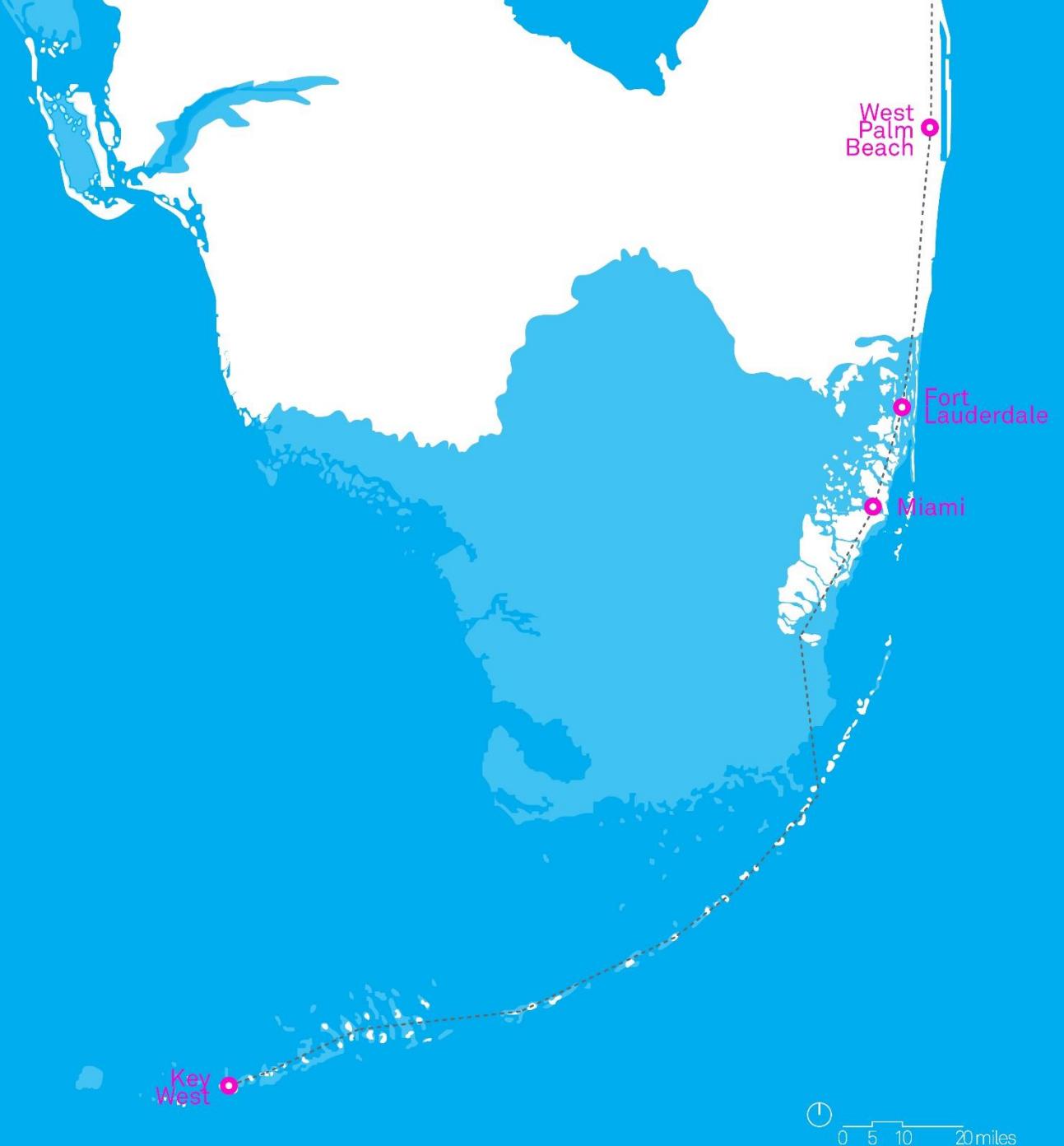


“The most important line on this planet is the coastline, and we mistake it as something static, but understandably so because throughout recorded human history it has relatively remained the same, but it’s now shifting and we need to adapt.”

-John Englander, Oceanographer-



Just **six feet of sea level rise** will inundate the region, drastically changing the environment. Essentially South Florida will become the Upper Keys.



What if future development in the region served as a **flood adaptive asset**, rather than an environmental liability in the face of rising seas and climate change?





USCSchool
of Architecture

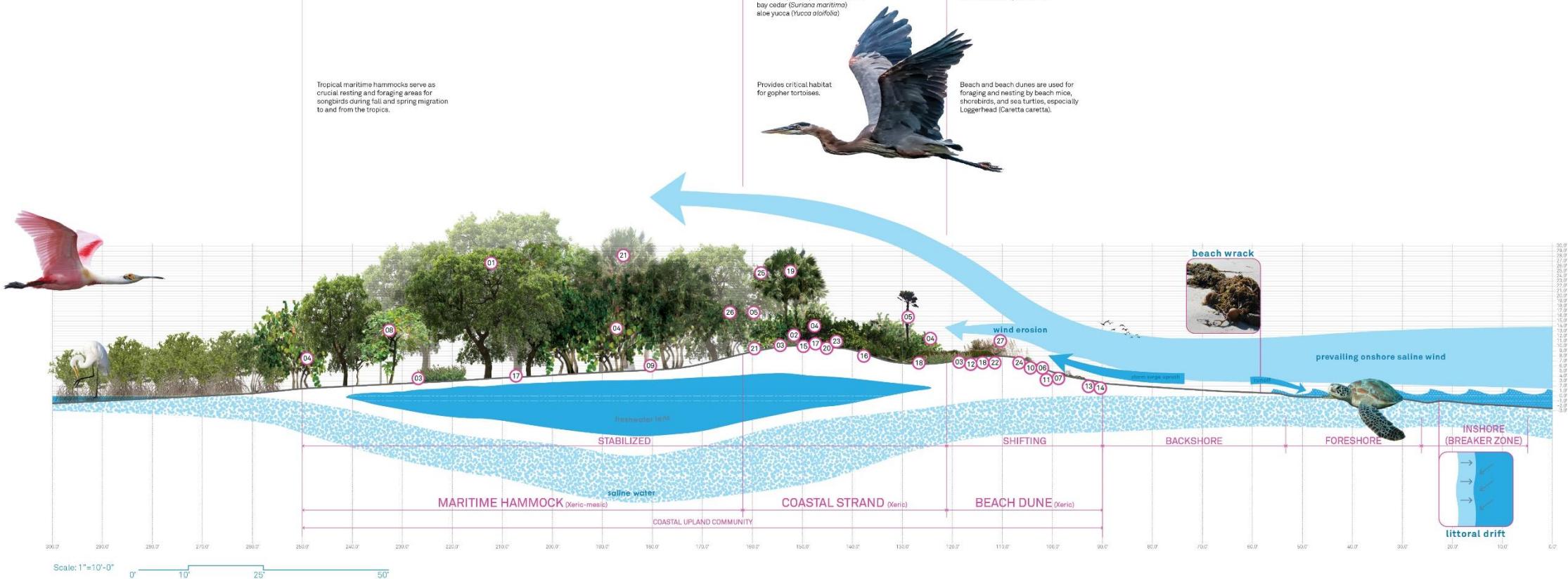


NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.

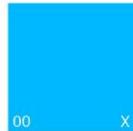
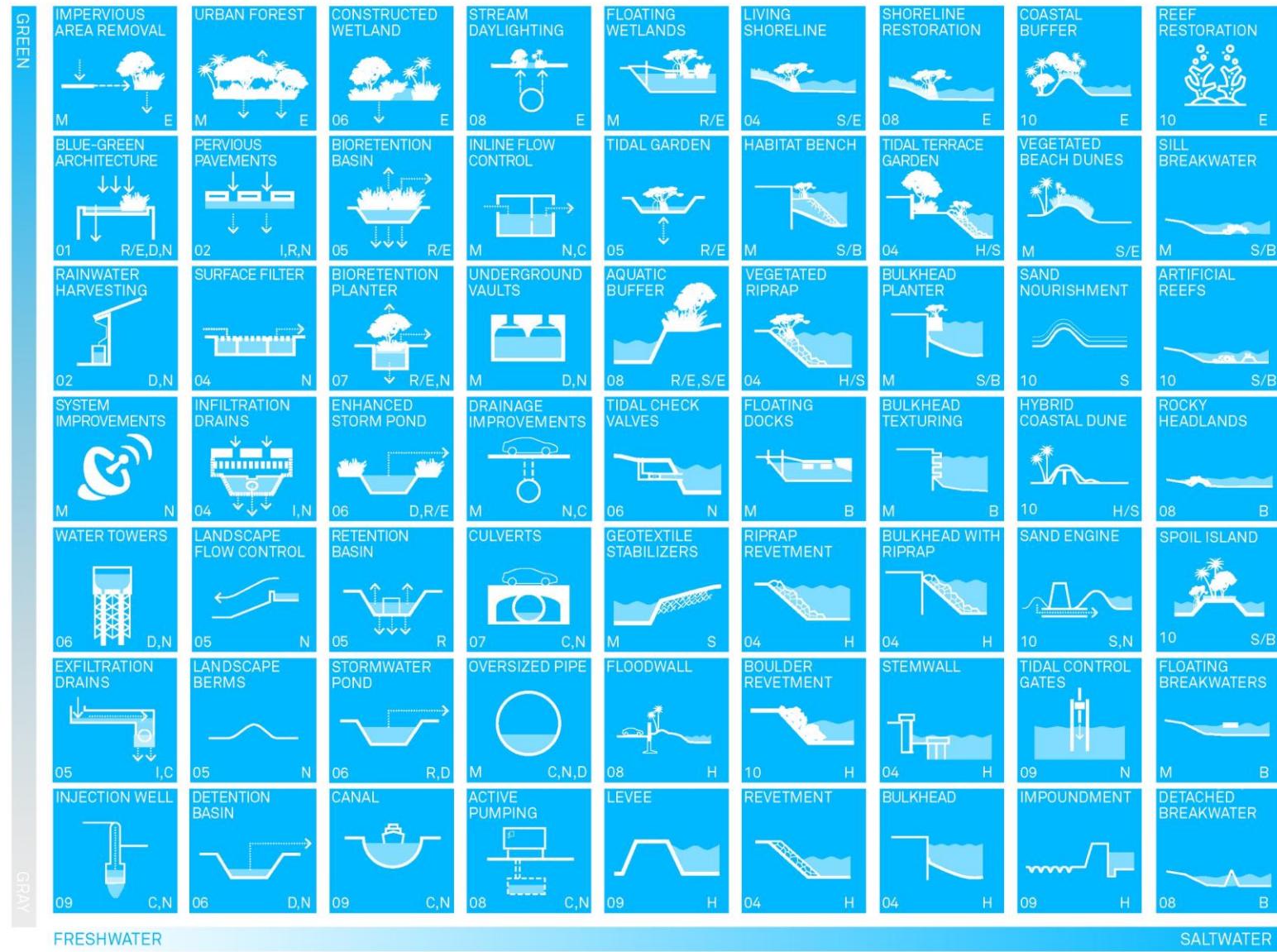


eco-
types



infra-
structure

infrastructural menu



legend

- 00. relevant scale(s)
- 01 - buildings only
- 02 - buildings to blocks
- 03 - parcels only
- 04 - parcels/shorelines
- 05 - parcels to neighborhoods
- 06 - blocks to neighborhoods
- 07 - street/shore to blocks
- 08 - street/shore to neighborhoods
- 09 - sub-regional to regional
- 10 - coast region only
- M - modular

X. infrastructural focus

- E - ecological
- D - detention
- R - retention
- C - conveyance
- I - infiltration/exfiltration
- R/E - bioretention
- S - soft stabilization
- H - hard stabilization
- H/S - hybrid stabilization
- S/E - nature-based stabilization
- B - breakwater
- S/B - hybrid breakwater
- N - network enhancement

SALTWATER

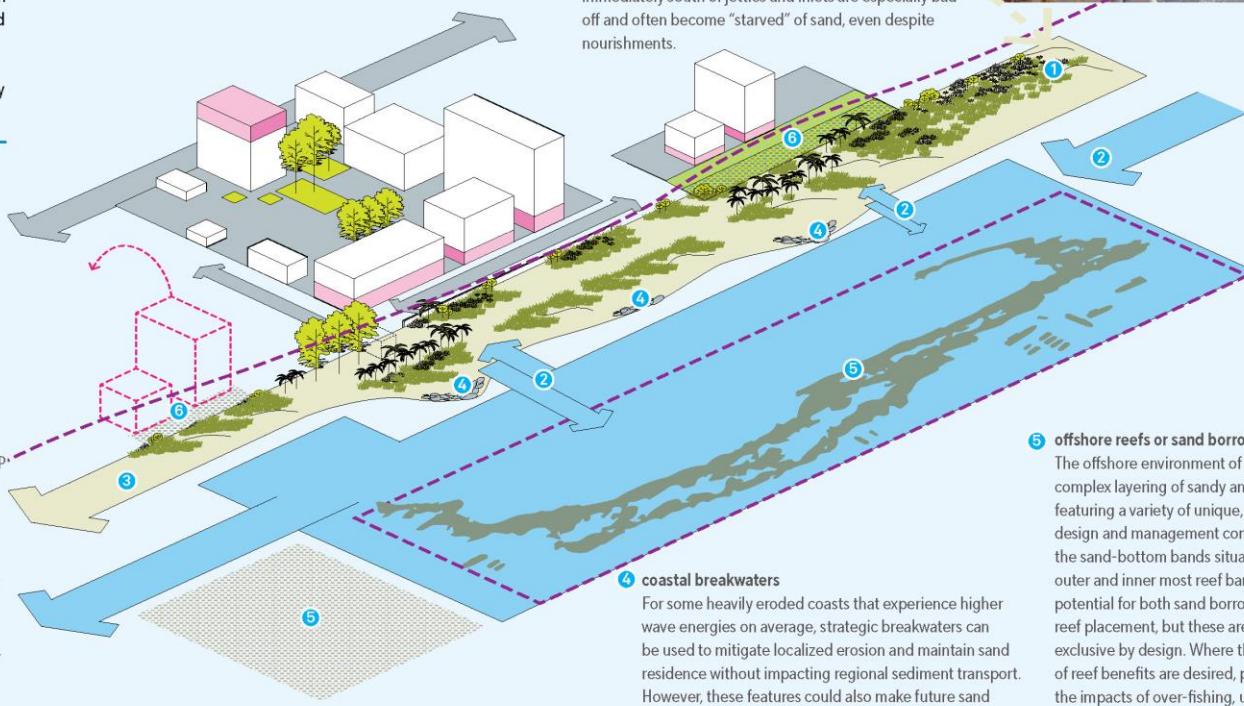
coastal corridor design

Nearly all of the sandy coastline separating urban south Florida from the Atlantic is considered "critically eroded" today. While sand "nourishments" have successfully mitigated local erosion rates in Florida for many decades, the practice is not without contention. Some experts claim it will continue to be an effective adaptation strategy against rising seas, while others point to the extreme costs associated with the apparent need to source ever increasing amounts of sand. "Sand borrowing" for nourishments from limited offshore reserves comes with many negative environmental costs, especially concerning sedimentation of reefs. Sand sourced from inland mines must be trucked to the beach overland at great expense, and these sources are not infinite. While an integrated system of sand nourishment and borrowing could theoretically result in a "closed loop" - with any eroded sand carried south by prevailing longshore currents relocated north again through future nourishments - in reality, this practice is not so simple. However, this kind of system may explain why observed rates of erosion in south Florida have not reflected observed rates in sea level rise. Reefs provide far more value than simply

breakwaters, but continued nourishments are likely required to maintain the existing coast. Managers must consider the socio-ecological trade-off related to these choices carefully. Armoring of the coast is not a good solution either. While taller floodwalls may be effective at protecting areas from surge, such features could also worsen rates of beach erosion. Many of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) program's mandates are expressly concerned with mitigating this potential, limiting the amount of armoring that can occur on the coast, including that from building foundations. Ultimately, management of the coastline will require the holistic design coordination of a regional corridor, one that integrates management offshore, onshore, and inland, across stakeholders, design scales, and political boundaries.

⑥ the CCCL, buildings, & coastal realignment

The main regulating component of the CCCL is the Coastal Construction Control Line itself, a semi-political geographic boundary running roughly parallel to the coast. The Line's exact distance from the ocean varies from location to location, determined by a variety of site-specific and political criteria and enforced by the FDEP. Generally, the CCCL seeks to reduce the impacts of construction activities and built features on coastal erosion and vulnerable coastal organisms, such as sea turtles. A newer but related state effort managed by the FDEP, the Sea Level Impact Projection Study Tool, or "SLIP Study," mandates that new construction in the coastal zone consider low-impact alternatives. While mitigating some of the most harmful types of development, both of these regulations still allow new construction in highly vulnerable areas. Climate change is expected to increase hurricane intensities by as much as 50 percent over the next century, and by the year 2100, a single category 5 hurricane could erode up to 47 percent of the beach area. Future managers should look to considering stronger setback regulations.



① sand nourishment & vegetated beach dunes

Sand inputs are encouraged to integrate closely with dune restorations, as covering beach sands with densely planted, native vegetation can enhance outcomes of nourishment.



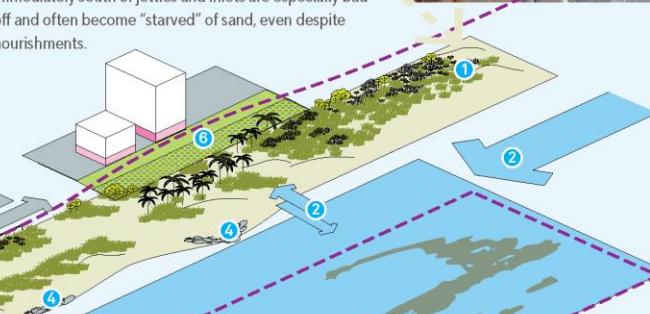
② the regional "sand budget"

Waves and currents shape and reshape sandy coastlines, with lower energy waves tending to build up beaches and higher energy waves tending to relocate sand offshore and/or move it south - this ideally results in a balanced "sand budget," with eroded sand on any given beach being replaced by new sand seasonally.



③ man-made erosion

The main cause attributed to the presently eroded condition of south Florida's coast is urbanization, not sea level rise, as the dredging/armoring of inlets combined with the covering of dunes by impervious surfaces has collectively hindered the region's sand budget - beaches immediately south of jetties and inlets are especially bad off and often become "starved" of sand, even despite nourishments.



⑤ offshore reefs or sand borrowing

The offshore environment of the southeast coast is a complex layering of sandy and hard-bottom "bands," featuring a variety of unique, and often conflicting, design and management considerations. Generally, the sand-bottom bands situated between the outer and inner most reef bands have the greatest potential for both sand borrowing and artificial reef placement, but these are generally mutually exclusive by design. Where the enhancement of reef benefits are desired, protecting reefs from the impacts of over-fishing, urban runoff pollution, and sand borrowing/dredging is paramount.

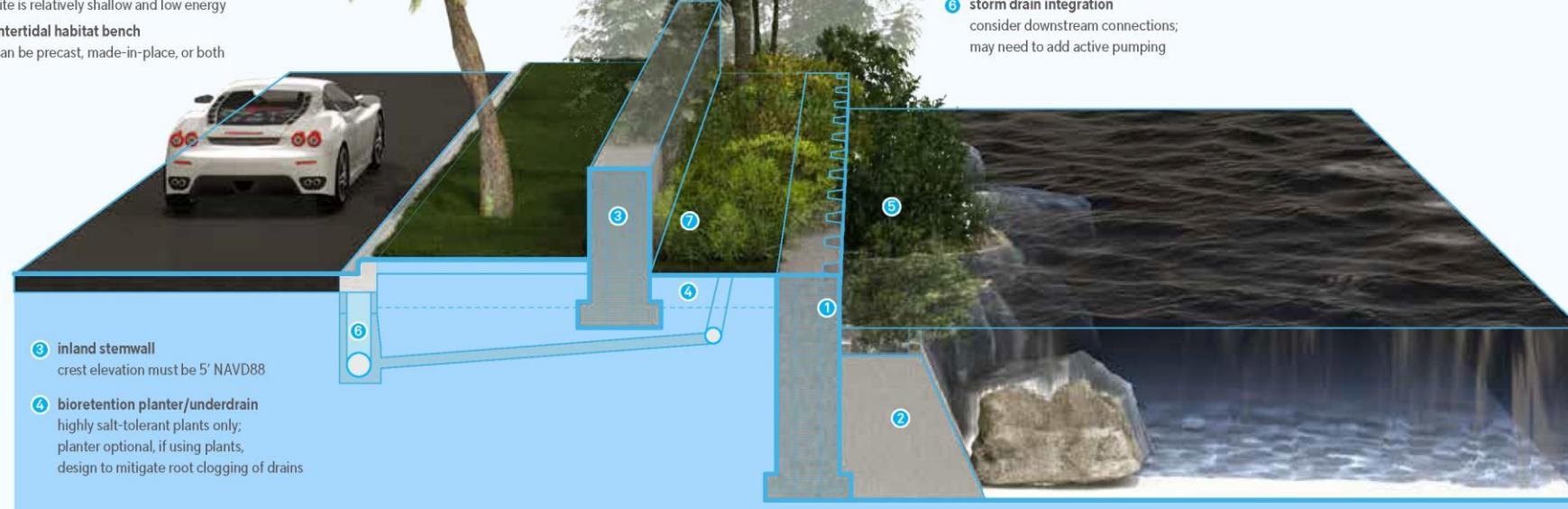
stemwall stair planter

enhancing estuarine seawalls

Space and funds-limited hybrid designs that wish to maximize more engineering-oriented outcomes should focus on improving the longevity and performance of any existing armor. For urban shorelines with an aging seawall, likely the most cost-effective hybrid improvement is to combine an intertidal planter, habitat bench, or riprap feature seaward of the existing wall, and a "stemwall" inland of it. The seaward planter/bench/riprap provides long-term support and protects the toe area from erosion, while the stemwall adds elevation to the shoreline's overall height, compensating for sea level rise but also using less material than a full seawall. Since this facility retains the existing seawall, it can represent a cost-savings as high as 75 percent when compared with complete replacement by traditional means. Adding bioretention planters and/or underdrains, both between seawall and stemwall, as well as landward of the stemwall, is recommended

to improve drainage and reduce the potential for inland erosion/pressure while adding co-benefits, such as cooling through shade (where shade trees are used).

- ① existing seawall
site is relatively shallow and low energy
- ② intertidal habitat bench
can be precast, made-in-place, or both



summary

problem areas addressed	tidal flooding, erosion, storm surge, (heat)
recommended scales - sites	lots, streets - space constrained sites
infrastructural goals/outcomes	mitigate erosion, elevate shoreline, reduce adaptive costs, reduce impact
guides - 2a,2b,2c, palettes -	
useful ecology components	life-cycle to 2050, elevate stemwall crest to 5 ft. NAVD88
SLR planning considerations	life cycle beyond 2050, elevate stemwall crest to 8 ft. NAVD88 - consider including active pumping inland



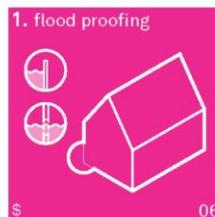
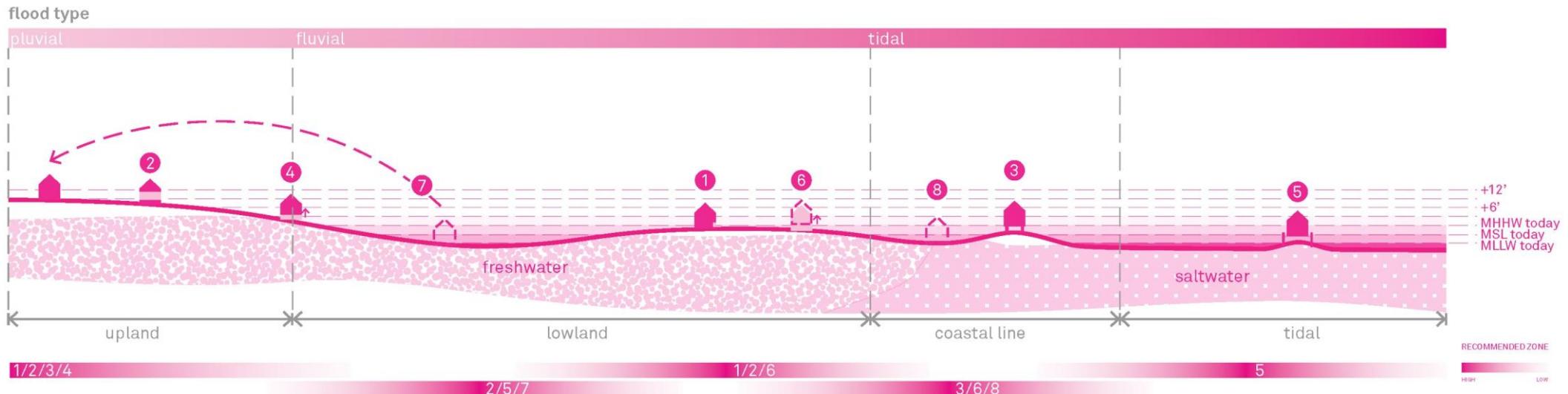


Birch Avenue becomes
Birch Eco-Boulevard.

**New permeable median of
bioswales and rain gardens
create oases within
the street corridor.**

*archi-
tecture*

flood-adaptive architecture menu



1. Dry flood-proofing: utilizes water-resistant materials and panel systems at openings to prevent water intrusion.

2. Wet flood-proofing: utilizes flood vents or breakaway walls to allow flooding to pass through.

3. Or increase the floor to ceiling dimension at ground level and raise floor.



Structure is built to accommodate retreat over time by abandoning lower-floor levels.



Building is raised above bfe on stilts. Keep in mind that nfip criteria does not account for future land development, coastal erosion and subsidence, or sea level rise. These would have to be factored in to ensure lifespan considerations. Consideration of what happens under the building should be addressed.



Structure is built on the raised platform. The raised platform can increase in elevation over time as adaptation demands.



Structure is built to float on water and tethered to a mooring or anchoring device while allowing the building to move freely in multiple directions



Structure is built to float on elevated flood water. The piles anchor the structure in place while the buoyant base floats up and down. The building rests atop the ground during non-flood events.



Relocation of buildings to higher elevations where flooding is less likely to occur. This could be a few hundred feet or miles.



Abandoned structures can be reclaimed or re-purposed, for example, the building could become an artificial reef or breakwater once materials that can pollute waterways are removed.

floating structure

description

Offer an innovative approach to flood adaptation. Instead of being firmly anchored to the ground, these structures are designed to float on water or be buoyant during flood events. This design concept allows buildings to rise and fall with changing water levels, minimizing the risk of damage and providing a resilient solution to flood-prone areas.

opportunities & challenges

Floating structures typically consist of buoyant materials and are engineered to withstand the forces exerted by water. They can be constructed using materials like reinforced concrete, steel, or specialized buoyant materials such as foam or hollow pontoons. The buoyancy is carefully calculated to ensure stability while accommodating variations in water levels.

design considerations

Considerations include infrastructure integration, stability, and accessibility.



summary

cost	\$\$
building type	single family, townhouses
locations	coastal or open water areas



raised solid foundation

description

Stemwalls or a solid foundation is another approach to flood adaptation. Stemwalls are short walls constructed around the perimeter of a building, typically made of reinforced concrete, which elevate the structure above the ground. This method provides a raised platform for the building while maintaining a solid foundation.

opportunities & challenges

Consider the specific site conditions and the potential impact of floodwaters on the surrounding area. Adequate drainage systems should be implemented to ensure that water does not accumulate around the stemwalls or beneath the raised structure.



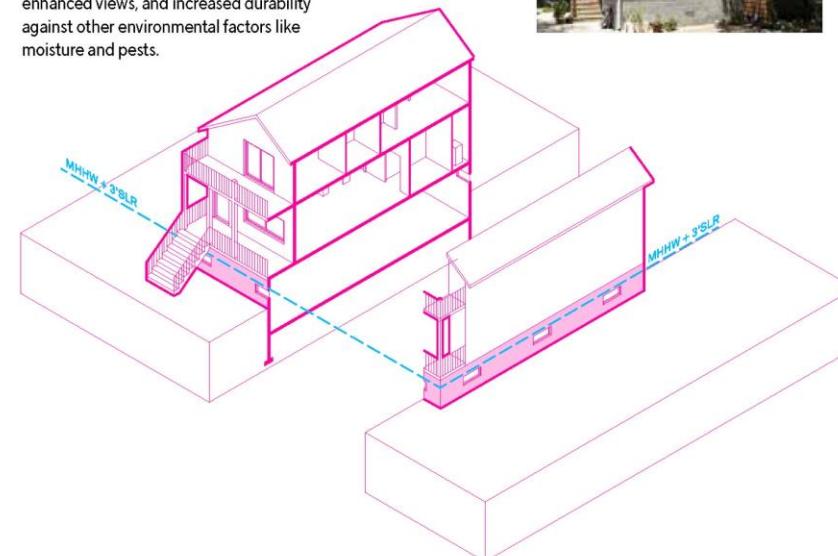
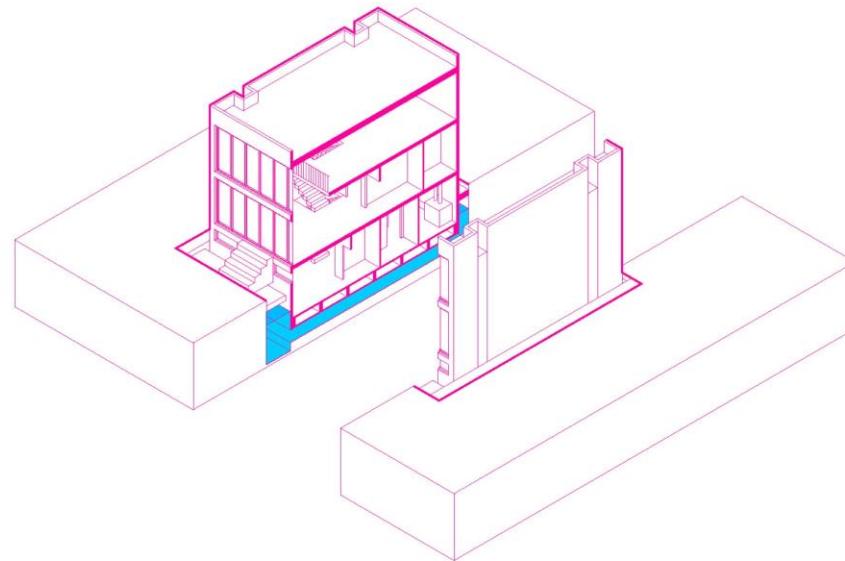
summary

cost	\$\$
building type	single family mostly
locations	coastal and low-lying areas



design considerations

Several advantages are it allows for a more secure and stable structure, providing a level of protection against both shallow and deep floods. It also enables easier access to the building during flood events, as well as facilitates post-flood cleanup and recovery efforts. Additional benefits include improved ventilation, enhanced views, and increased durability against other environmental factors like moisture and pests.



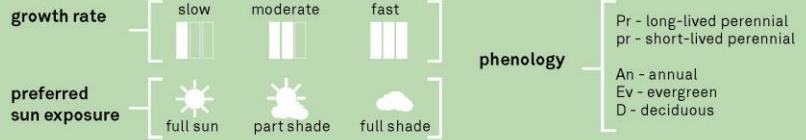
"A salty future will require plants adapted to saltier conditions. The following palettes are appropriate to south Florida and other areas can take a similar approach with regionally appropriate plants that will be better adapted to local conditions."

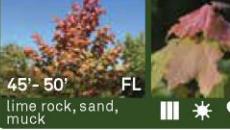
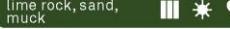
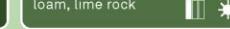
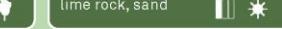
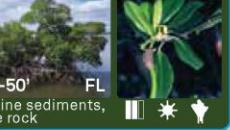
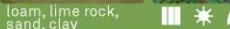
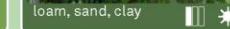
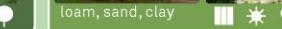
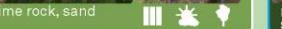
plant palettes

large trees

These are large landscape trees useful as hedgegrow screens, specimens, wide avenue plantings and/or for providing urban canopy and shade cover.

All grow taller than thirty feet at maturity and so must be set back at least thirty feet away from the nearest powerlines.



red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>  45'-50' lime rock, sand, muck 	willow bustic <i>Sideroxylon salicifolium</i>  30'-50' loam, lime rock 	false mastic <i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>  40'-70' lime rock, sand 	West Indies mahogany <i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>  30'-70' loam, lime rock, sand, clay 	paradise tree <i>Simarouba glauca</i>  30'-50' loam, sand, clay 	red mangrove <i>Rhizophora mangle</i>  20'-50' marine sediments, lime rock 
royal poinciana <i>Delonix regia</i>  30'-70' loam, lime rock, sand, clay 	Japanese fern tree <i>Filicium decipiens</i>  20'-35' loam, sand, clay 	silk floss tree <i>Chorisia speciosa</i>  30'-50' loam, sand, clay 	wild tamarind <i>Lysiloma latifolium</i>  30'-40' loam, lime rock, sand 	Jamaican dogwood <i>Piscidia piscipula</i>  15'-50' lime rock, sand 	black mangrove <i>Avicennia germinans</i>  20'-40' marine sediments, sand 
red mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>  35'-70' loam, sand 	avocado <i>Persea americana</i>  30'-65' loam, lime rock, sand 	persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>  35'-60' loam, sand, clay 	mango <i>Mangifera indica</i>  30'-60' sand, loam, clay 	Florida soapberry <i>Sapindus saponaria</i>  30'-40' loam, sand, lime rock, clay 	pitch apple <i>Clusia rosea</i>  25'-50' lime rock, sand 
bridalveil tree <i>Caesalpinia granadillo</i>  25'-35' loam, sand, clay 	slash pine <i>Pinus elliottii</i>  80'-100' loam, lime rock, sand 	bald cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>  50'-100' loam, muck, sand, clay 	pond cypress <i>Taxodium ascendens</i>  50'-85' loam, muck, sand 	yew podocarpus <i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>  20'-80' loam, sand, clay 	eastern red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>  25'-40' loam, muck, sand 
queen crape myrtle <i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i>  35'-60' loam, sand, clay 	banyans <i>Ficus spp.</i>  40'-60' loam, muck, sand, lime rock 	live oak <i>Quercus virginiana</i>  40'-80' loam, sand 	monkey apple <i>Mimusops caesalpiniifolia</i>  20'-40' loam, sand, lime rock 	green buttonwood <i>Conocarpus erectus</i>  30'-50' lime rock, sand 	seagrape <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>  25'-50' sand 

low salt tolerance

preferred soil moisture



- ▲ caution advised siting near structures
- ⚠ CAUTION - weedy exotic species
- ⚠ caution - weedy native species
- #'-#' species mature height range
- FL indicates Florida native species

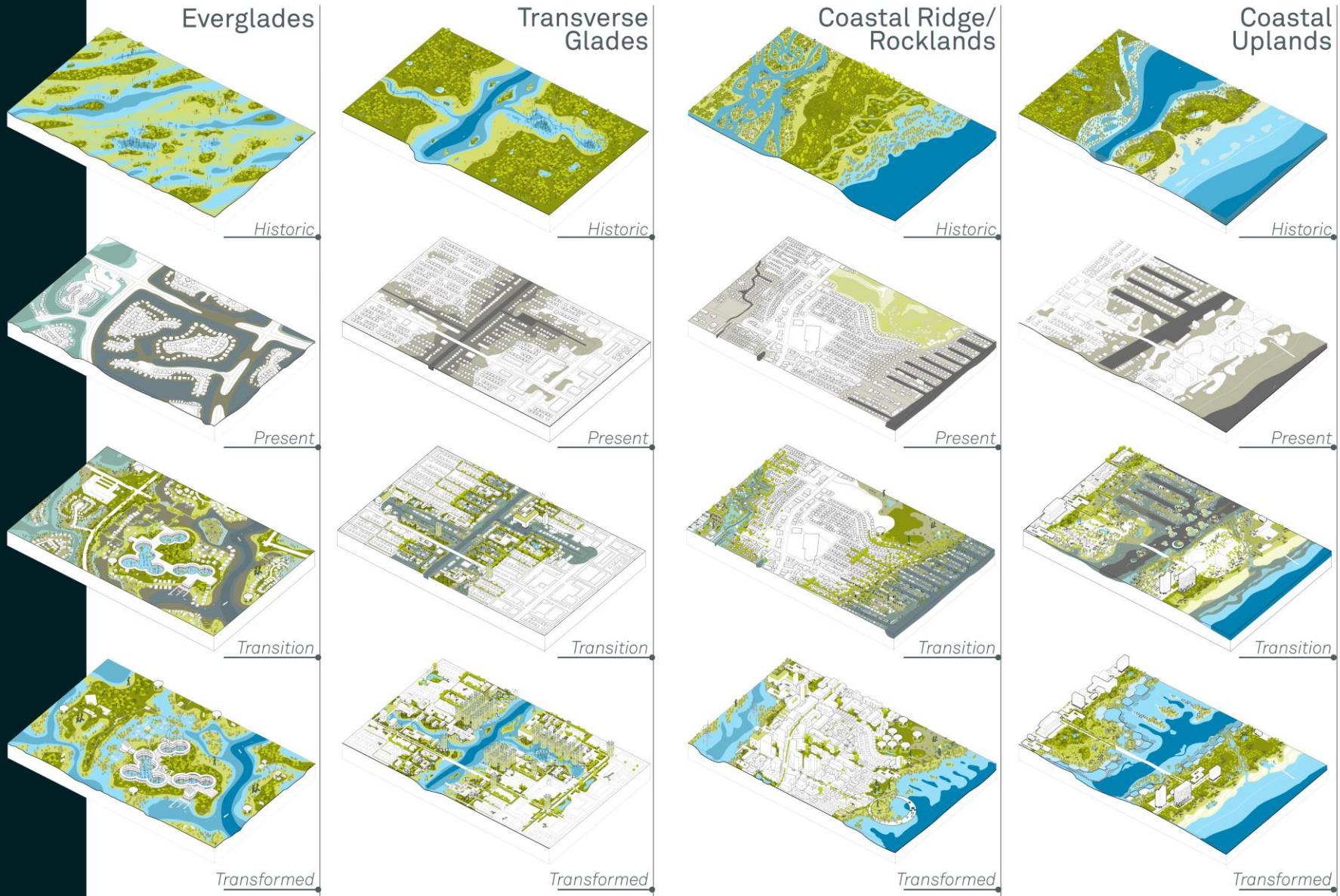
high salt tolerance



urban
design

Ecotypic Response Matrix

Basic services and economies organized around a decentralized network toolled for salty and desert-like conditions creates novel approaches to tourism (ruin porn), agriculture, and scientific research. Water would be produced through harvesting and cleaning rainwater, as well as desalination. Waste would be collected and metabolized through phytoremediation networks. Power would be generated with wave, wind, waste, and solar as a distributed and redundant system. Food would be grown within localized networks to service and provide sustenance farming for residents and visitors. Automated and autonomous vehicles would be placed into service to aide in clean up and detoxifying previously developed areas and waters. Abandoned structures become scaffolding for transitional and transformed ecologies.

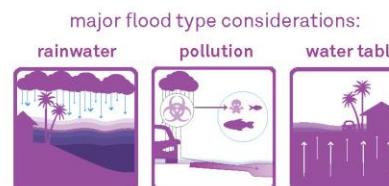


glades adaptation

By combining these approaches, the glades can be better prepared to handle flooding events.

Seed mangrove forests along western areas closest to the Everglades and along canal areas. Glade areas will become brackish and mangroves can help filter runoff and build land.

Certain roads should be raised to provide evacuation and routes for critical services, but transportation may need to adapt to water-based craft.



Biomounds and bioswales can be installed to help with evapotranspiration rates. Vegetation will need to be installed that is salt tolerant or halophytic.

Single-family homes will need to be flood-adapted and structurally improved to prevent hydrostatic and hydraulic failure. Structures will need to be wet and dry flood proofed. Access to structures may be limited by extreme storm events.

Certain areas and neighborhoods may need to be decommissioned to allow for more room for water, especially to ensure freshwater recharge is maintained.

Rainwater harvesting and decentralized utilities will become critical to provide services to residents in these areas as infrastructure becomes too costly to serve entire areas.

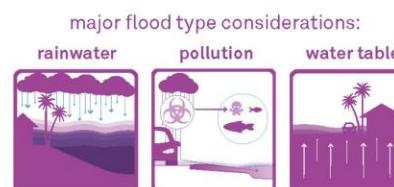


transverse glades adaptation

importantly, will regulate freshwater supply and flooding in the future and should be designed appropriately. A clear development edge that makes room for water must be implemented.

Seed mangrove forests along canals. Transverse glade areas will become brackish and mangroves can help filter runoff and build land.

Certain roads will bridge over the transverse glades to provide evacuation and routes for critical services, but like glades areas, transportation may need to adapt to water-based craft.

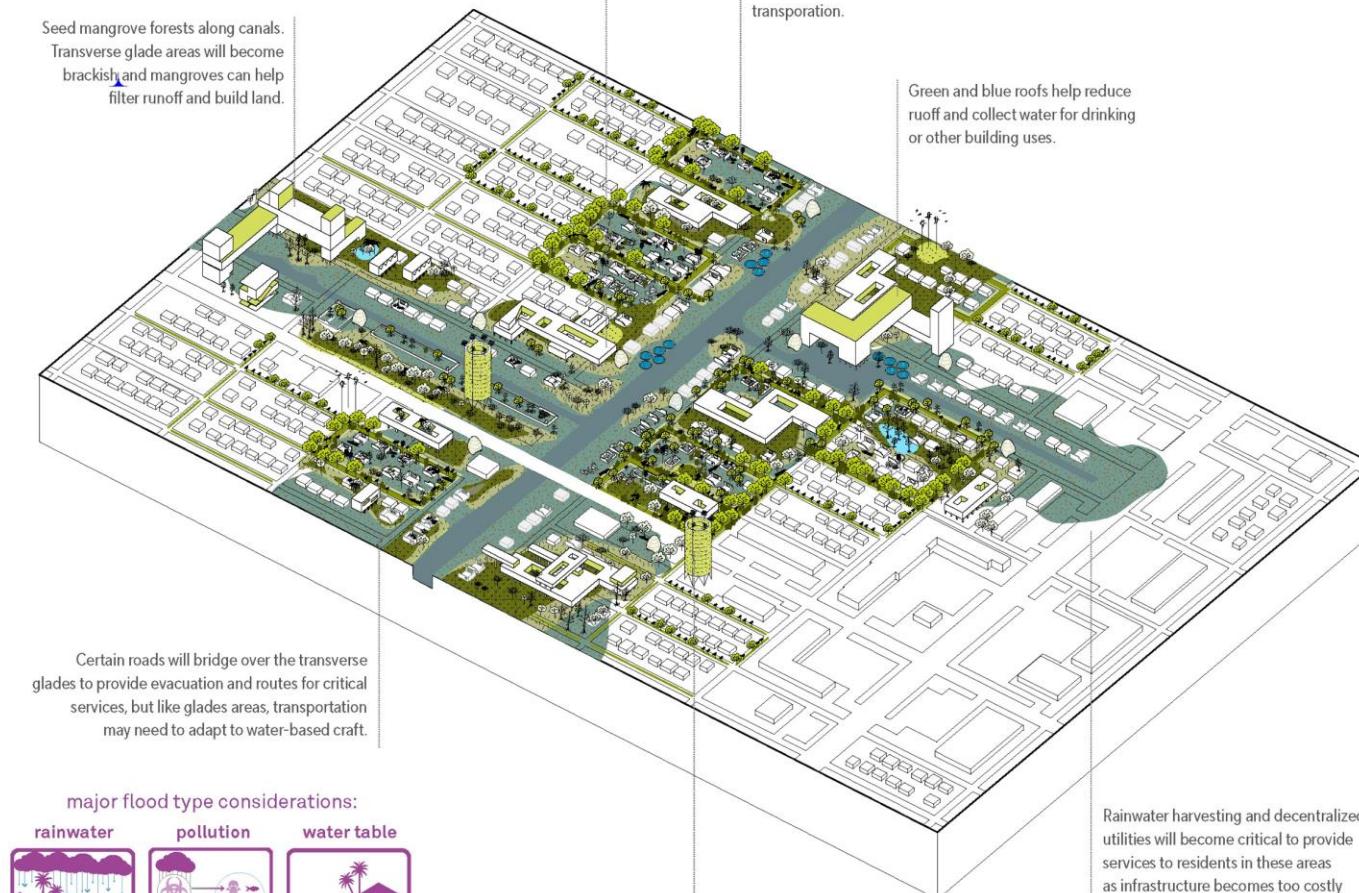


New development opens up the ground for ecological functioning and provides elevated spaces for recreation and outdoor activities. These rooftops can be linked to other developments to form a new elevated ground.

Expanded canal zones will require removal and decommissioning of built areas. These areas can allow for intensified development that is flood-adapted and offers access to water-based transportation.

Green and blue roofs help reduce runoff and collect water for drinking or other building uses.

Rainwater harvesting and decentralized utilities will become critical to provide services to residents in these areas as infrastructure becomes too costly to serve entire areas.



coastal ridge and uplands adaptation

way that does not alienate, nor push out those populations that have occupied the land for generations—climate gentrification is an issue that will need to be solved at the neighborhood and community scale.

Transfer of development rights can be a powerful tool to incentivize development to the coastal ridge.

Transfer of development rights or TDR allow for intensification of development at the higher elevations. New development should still plan for flooding and design to integrate green and blue roofs, living walls, and green infrastructure.

Neighborhoods should implement green and blue streets and redevelop with flood-adaptive architecture.

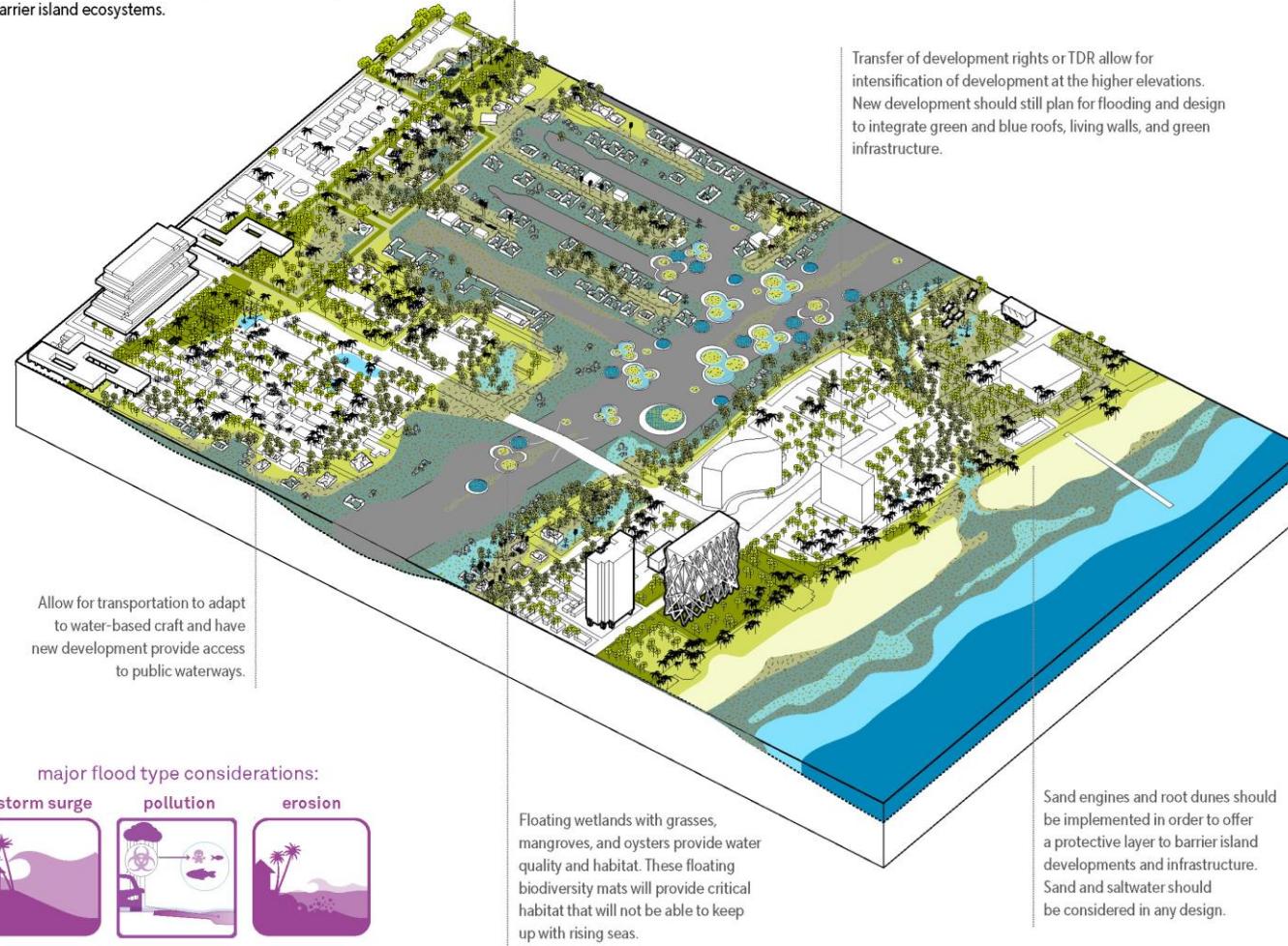


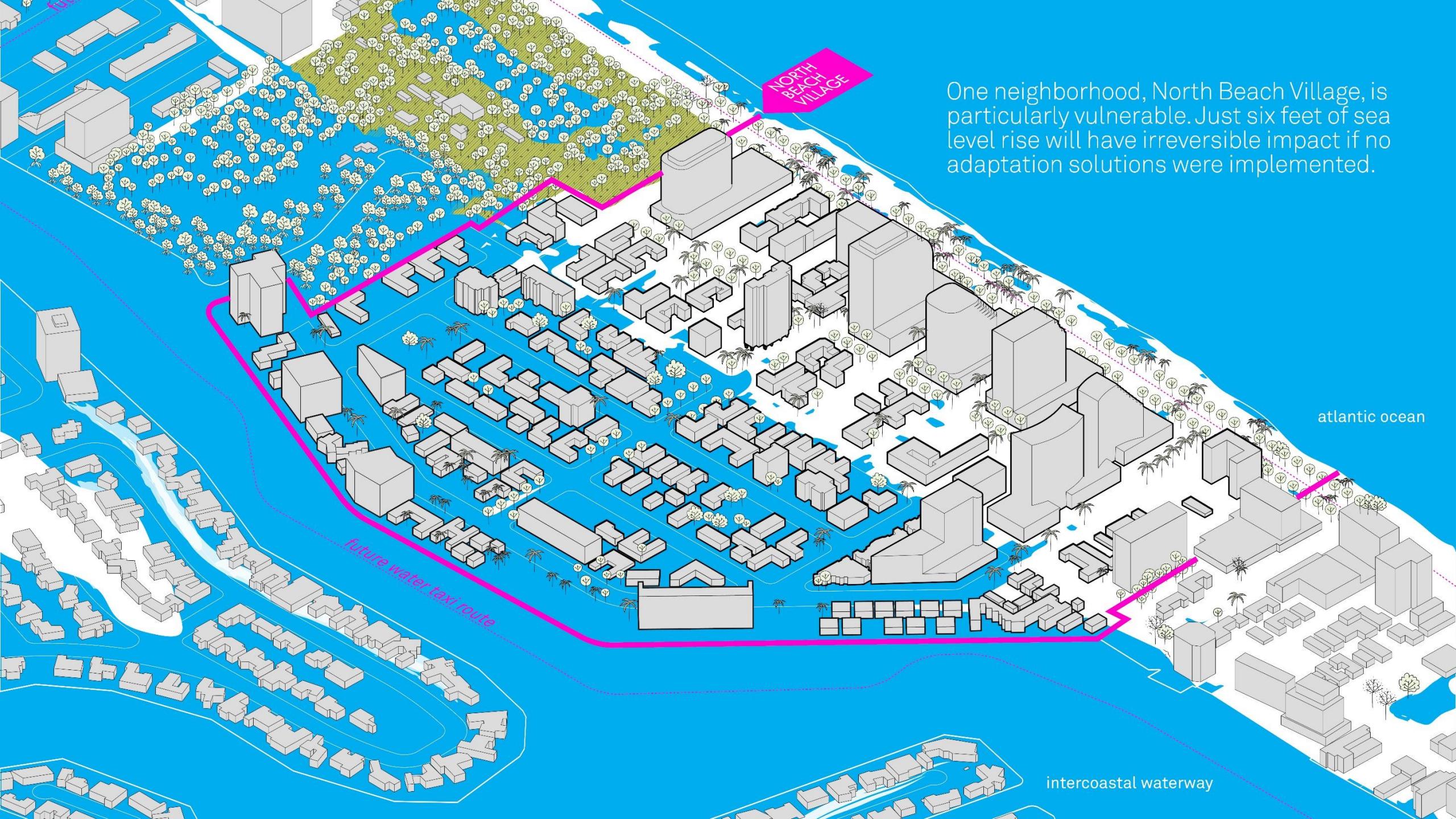
coastal uplands-estuarine adaptation

and early warning systems, and public education. By combining these approaches, barrier islands can enhance their resilience to flooding, protecting coastal communities and infrastructure from the impacts of storm surge and wave action. Collaboration among stakeholders is vital to implementing these measures effectively and ensuring the long-term sustainability of barrier island ecosystems.

Low-lying areas should implement green and blue streets and redevelop with flood-adaptive architecture. Repetitive loss properties in the finger islands should consider decommissioning or take extreme action to make them flood adaptive. Transportation should go to water-based.

Transfer of development rights or TDR allow for intensification of development at the higher elevations. New development should still plan for flooding and design to integrate green and blue roofs, living walls, and green infrastructure.

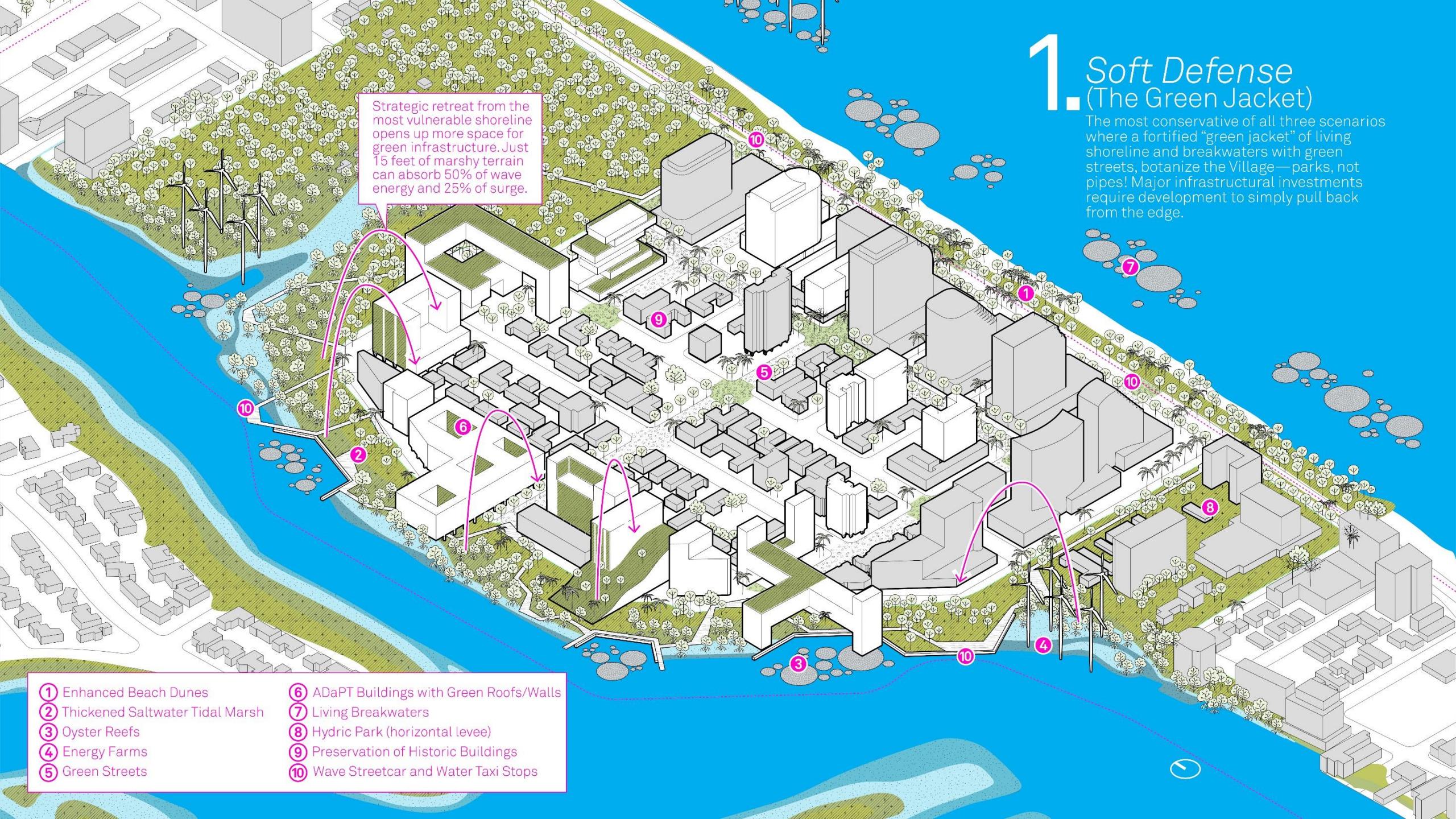


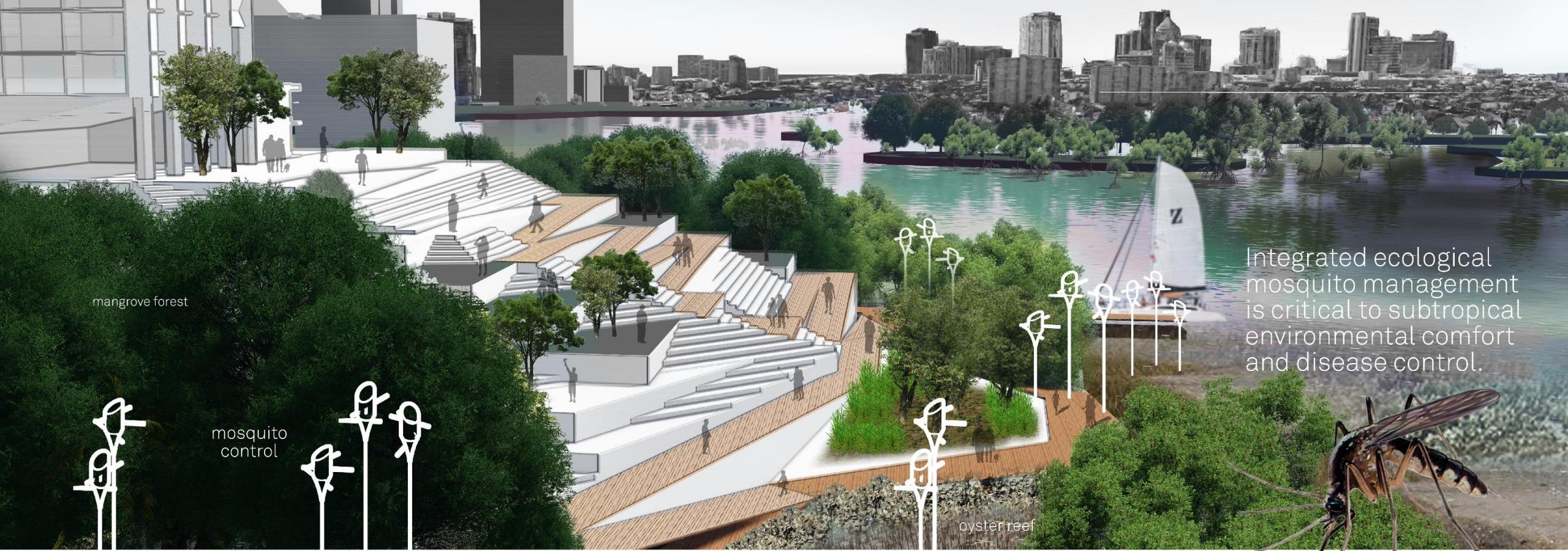


One neighborhood, North Beach Village, is particularly vulnerable. Just six feet of sea level rise will have irreversible impact if no adaptation solutions were implemented.

1. Soft Defense (The Green Jacket)

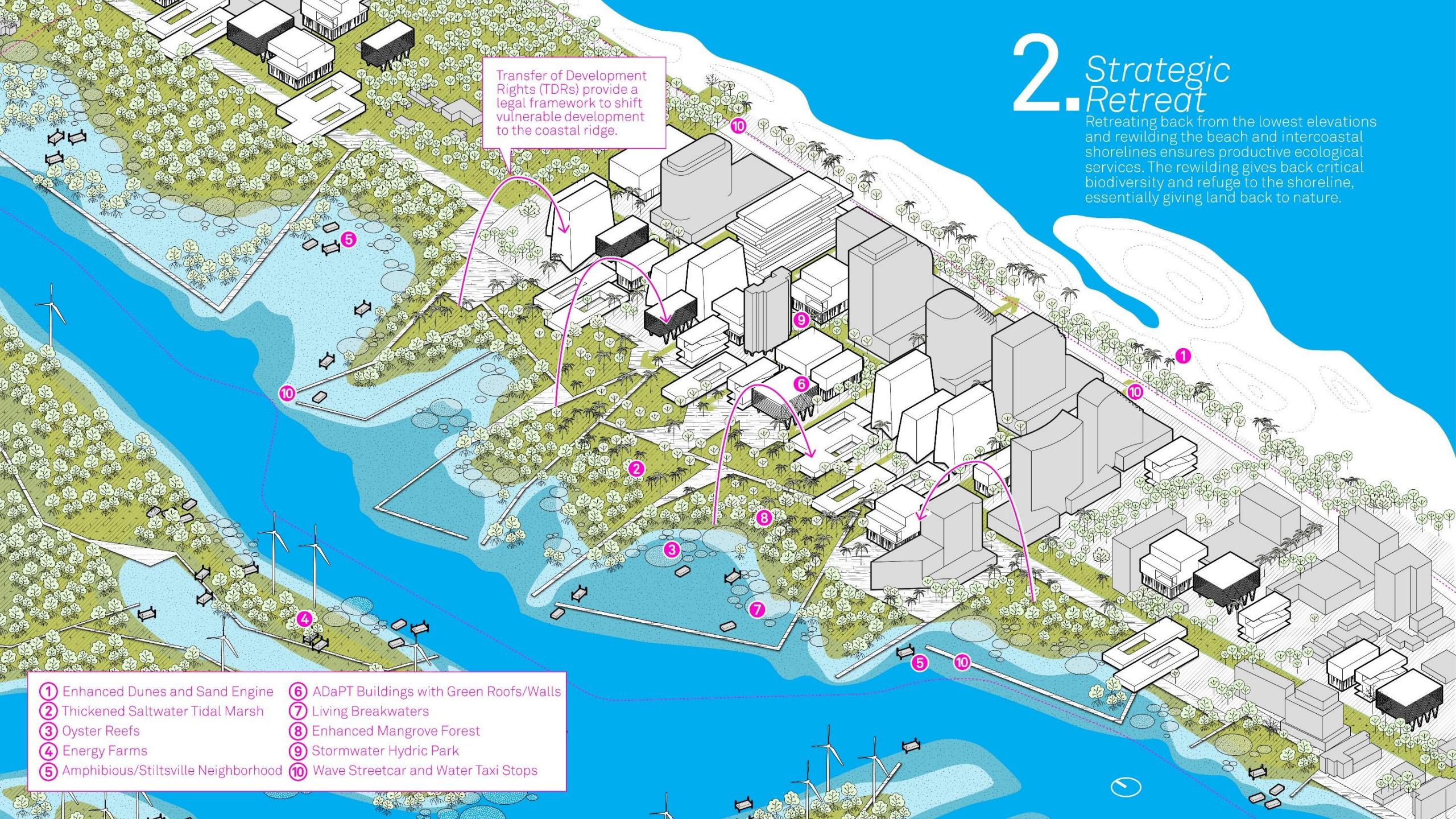
The most conservative of all three scenarios where a fortified “green jacket” of living shoreline and breakwaters with green streets, botanize the Village—parks, not pipes! Major infrastructural investments require development to simply pull back from the edge.

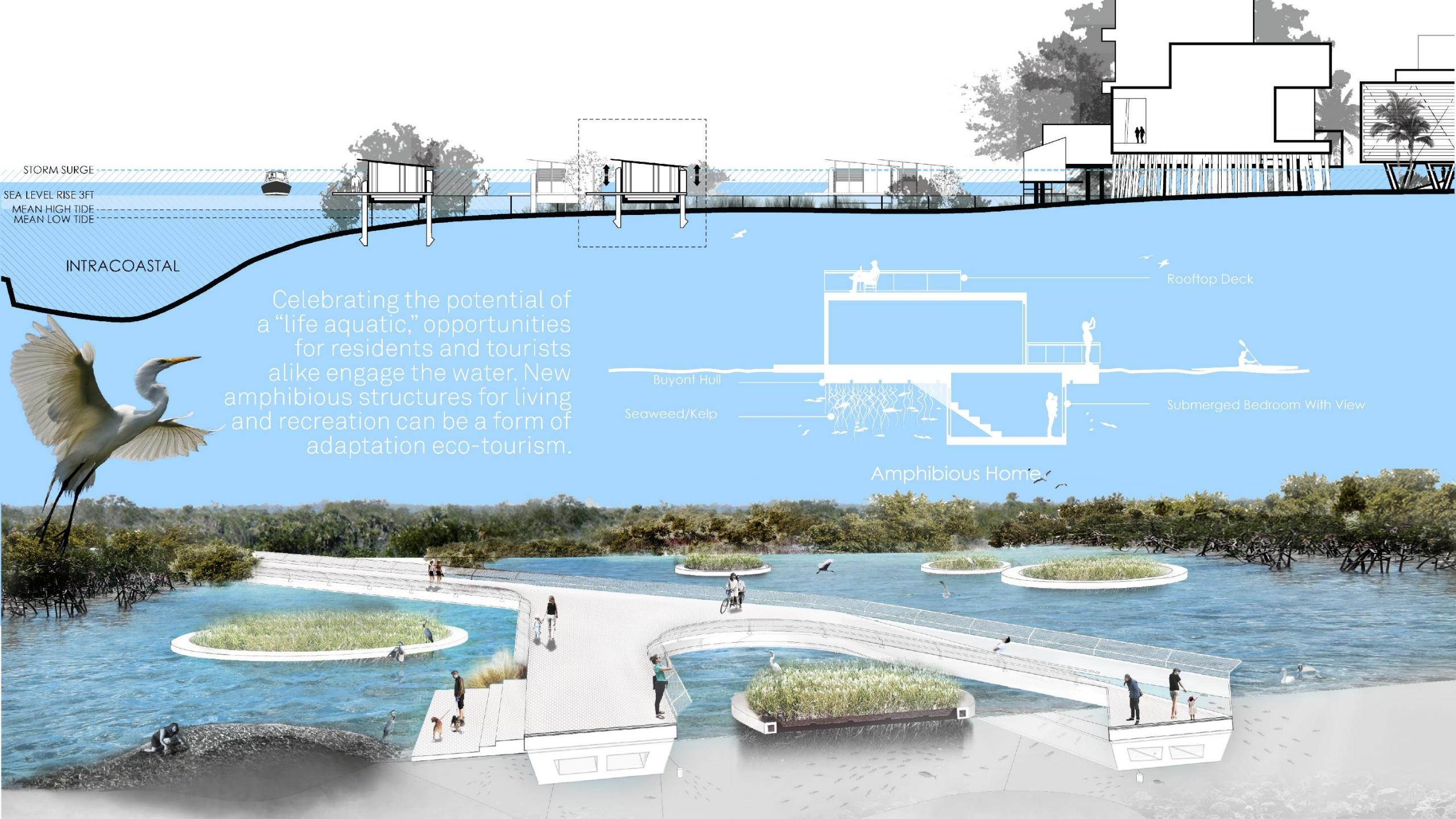




2. Strategic Retreat

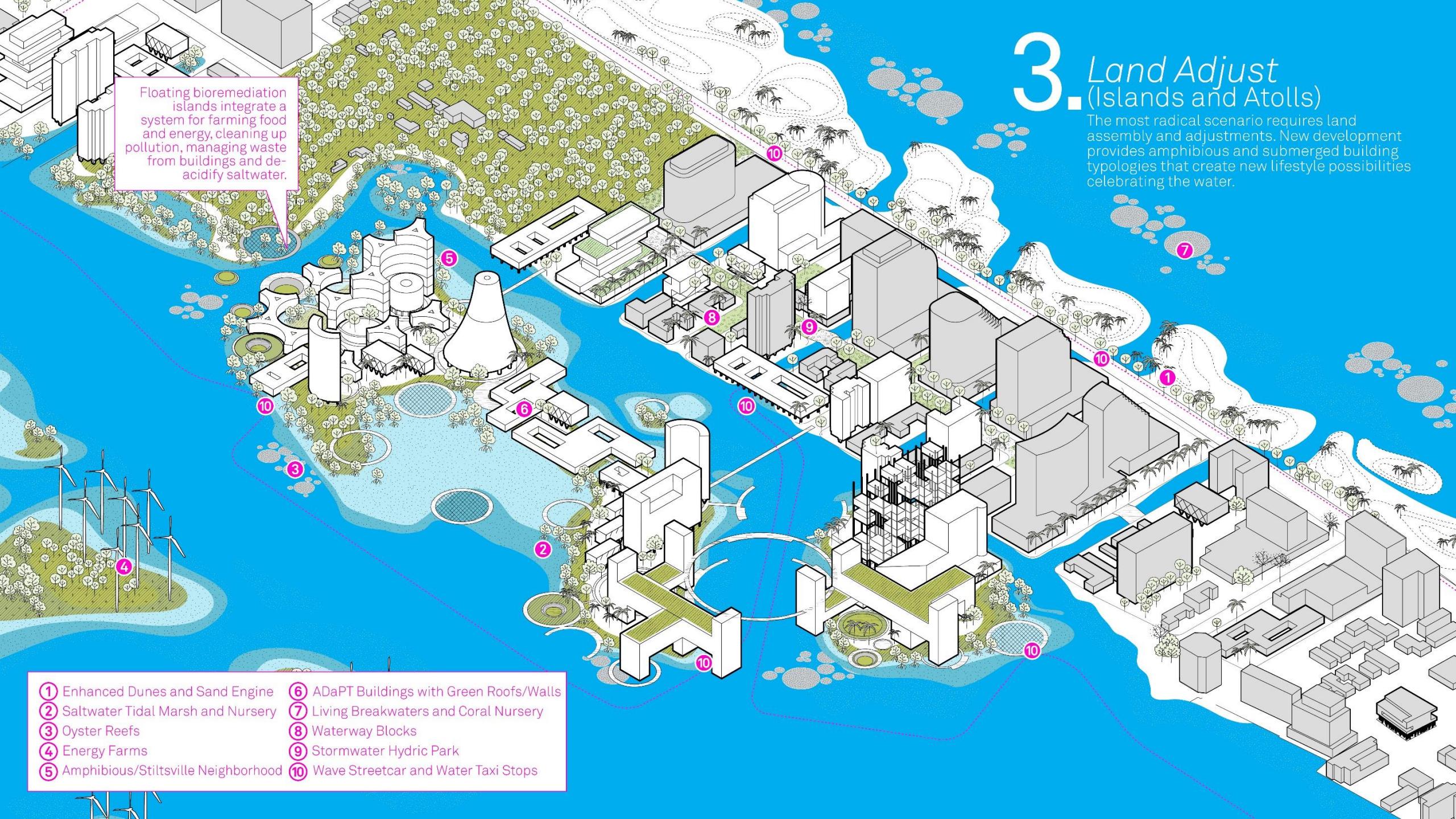
Retreating back from the lowest elevations and rewilding the beach and intercoastal shorelines ensures productive ecological services. The rewilding gives back critical biodiversity and refuge to the shoreline, essentially giving land back to nature.





3. Land Adjust (Islands and Atolls)

The most radical scenario requires land assembly and adjustments. New development provides amphibious and submerged building typologies that create new lifestyle possibilities celebrating the water.





Miami Beach, Florida

139 units of Senior Affordable Housing



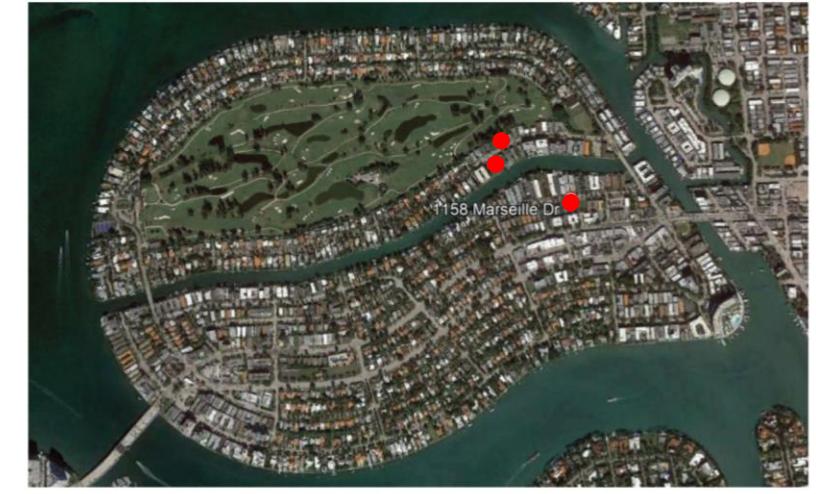
Vista 49 units

Breeze 70 units

The Heron 20 units

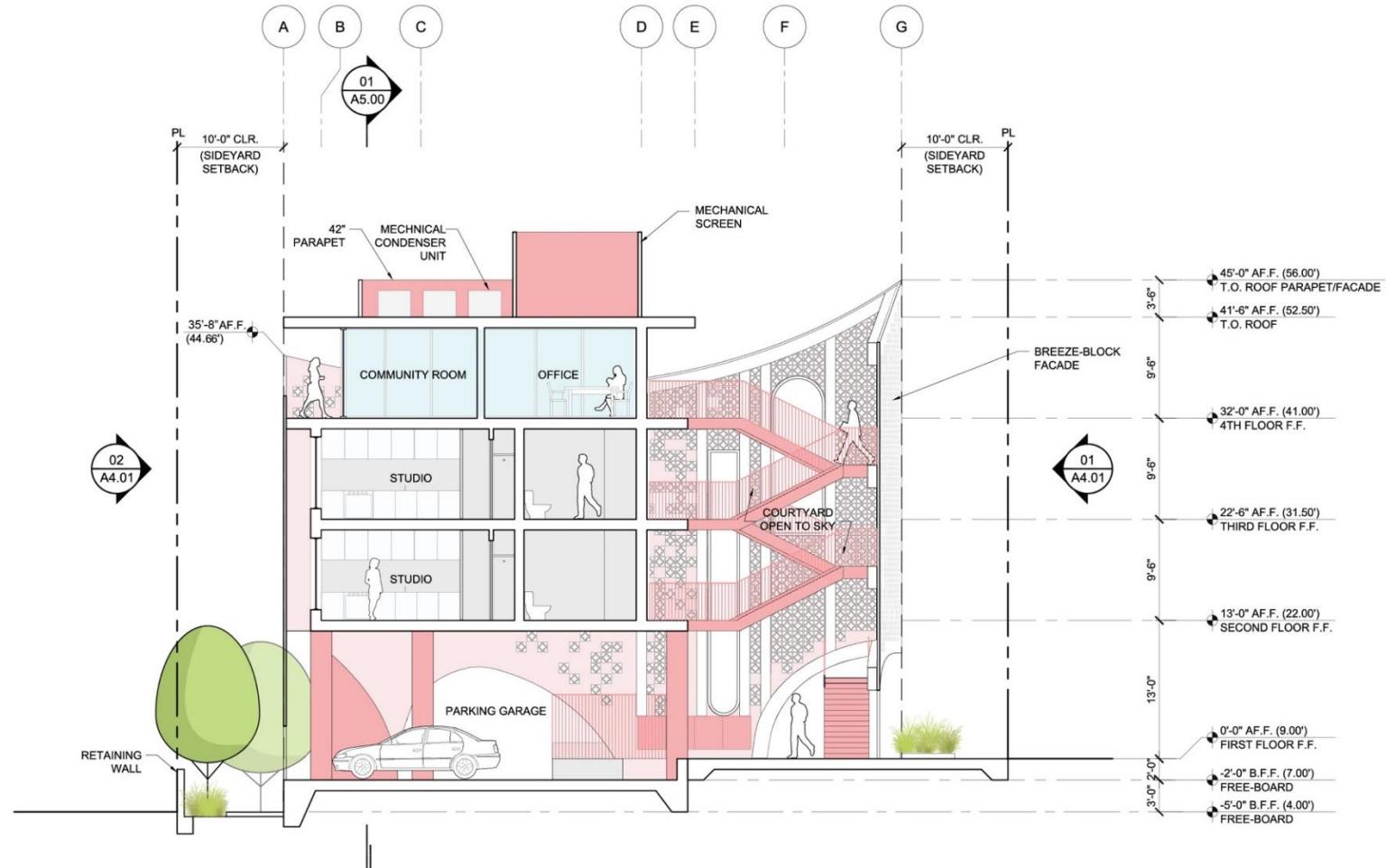


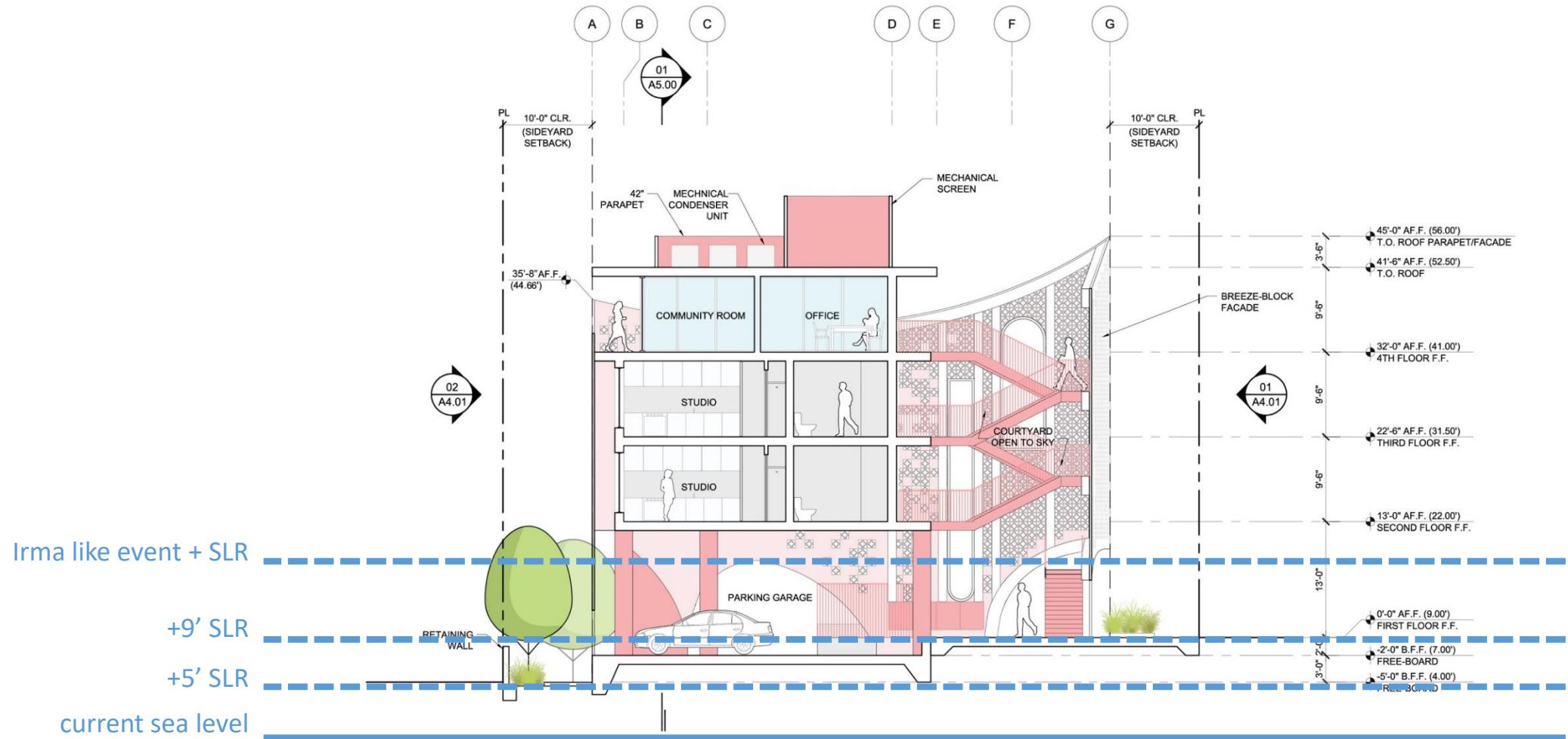
SITE LOCATION / MAP 01



SITE LOCATION / MAP 03







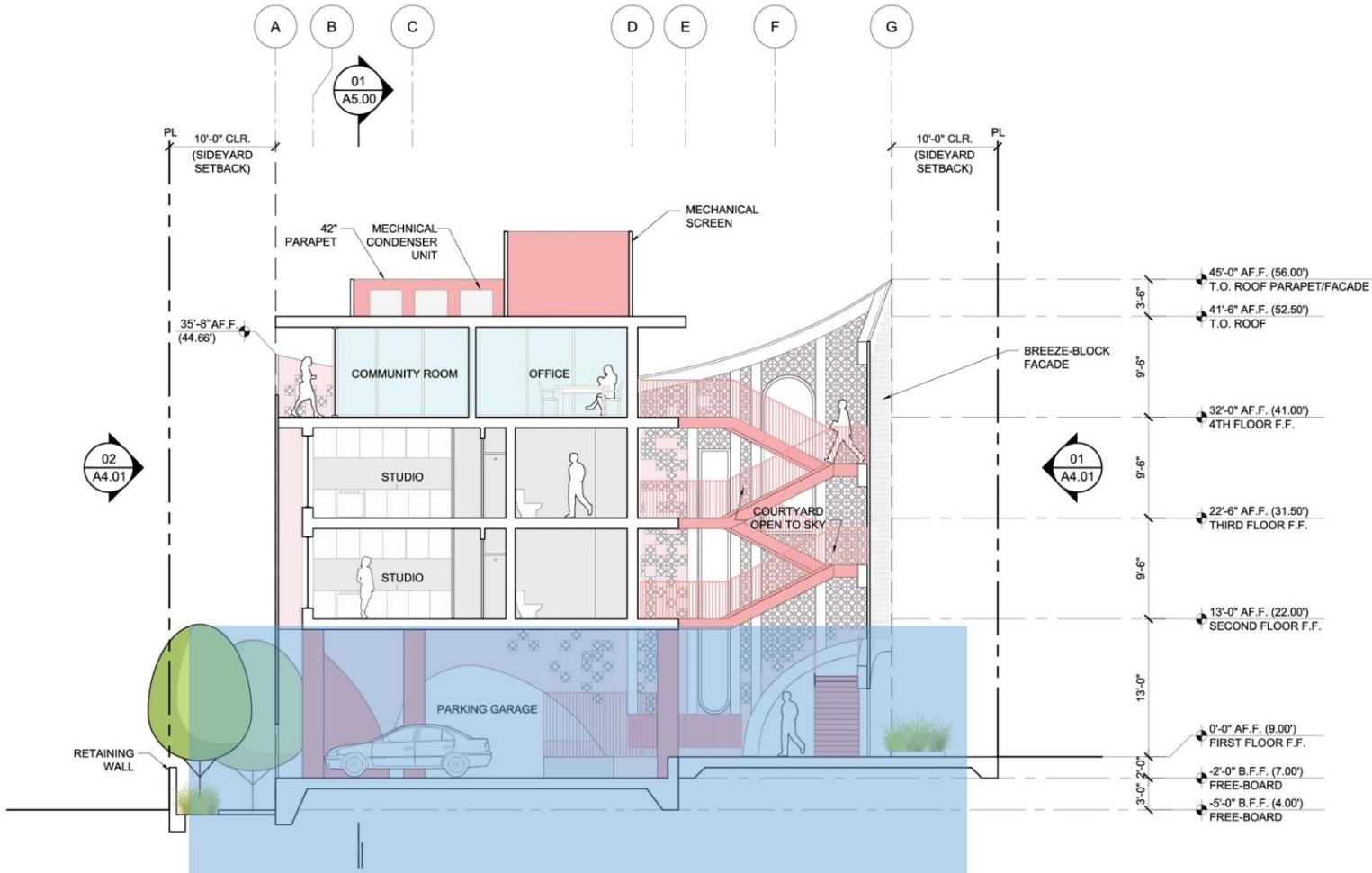


MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE
TECHNICAL RESCUE

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT



FWC





DESIGN/ FLOOR PLANS



SECOND FLOOR

The Vista / 33







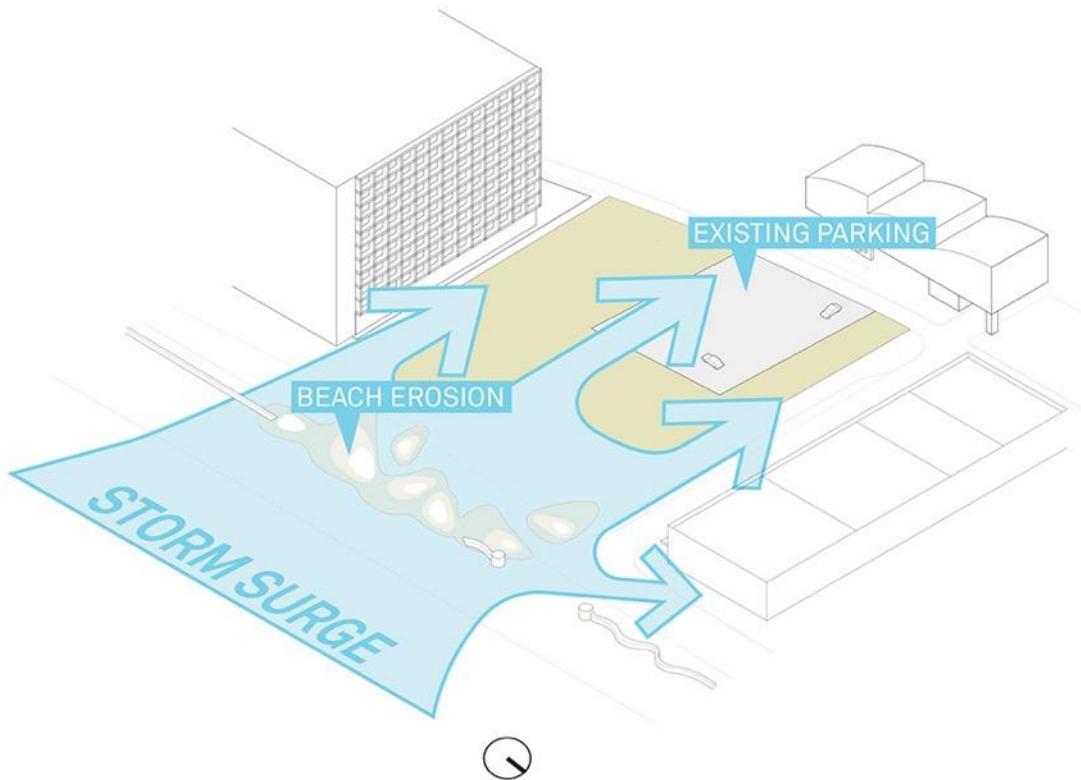




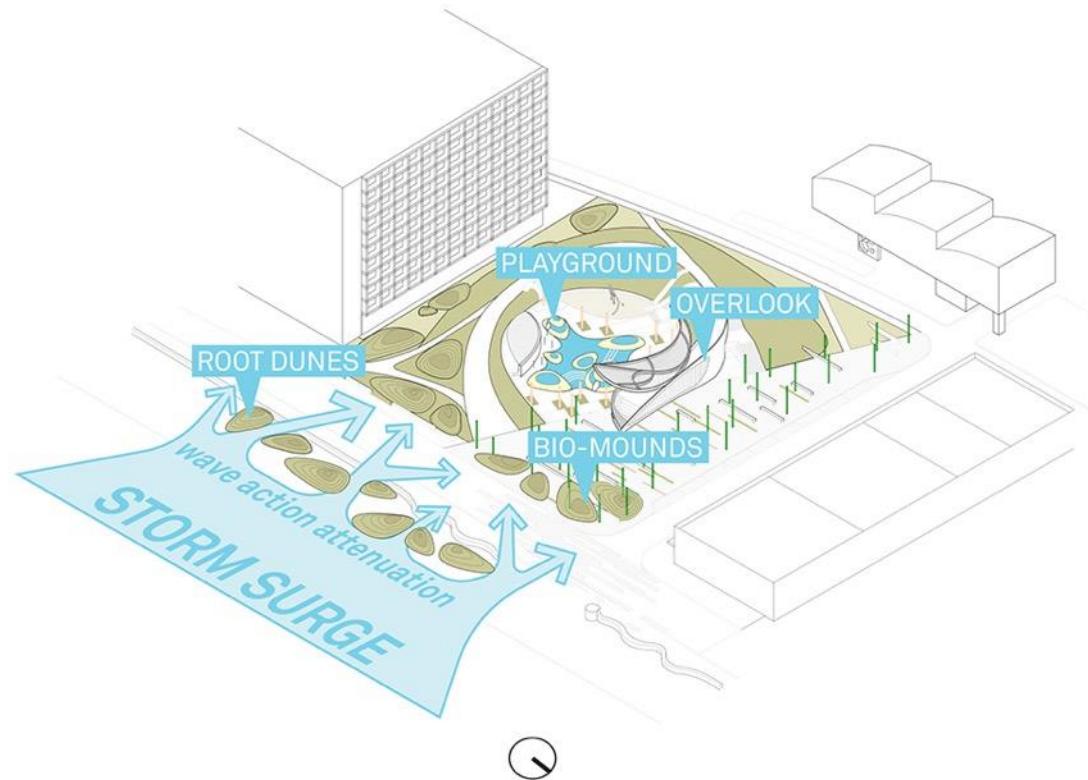








EXISTING
PARK



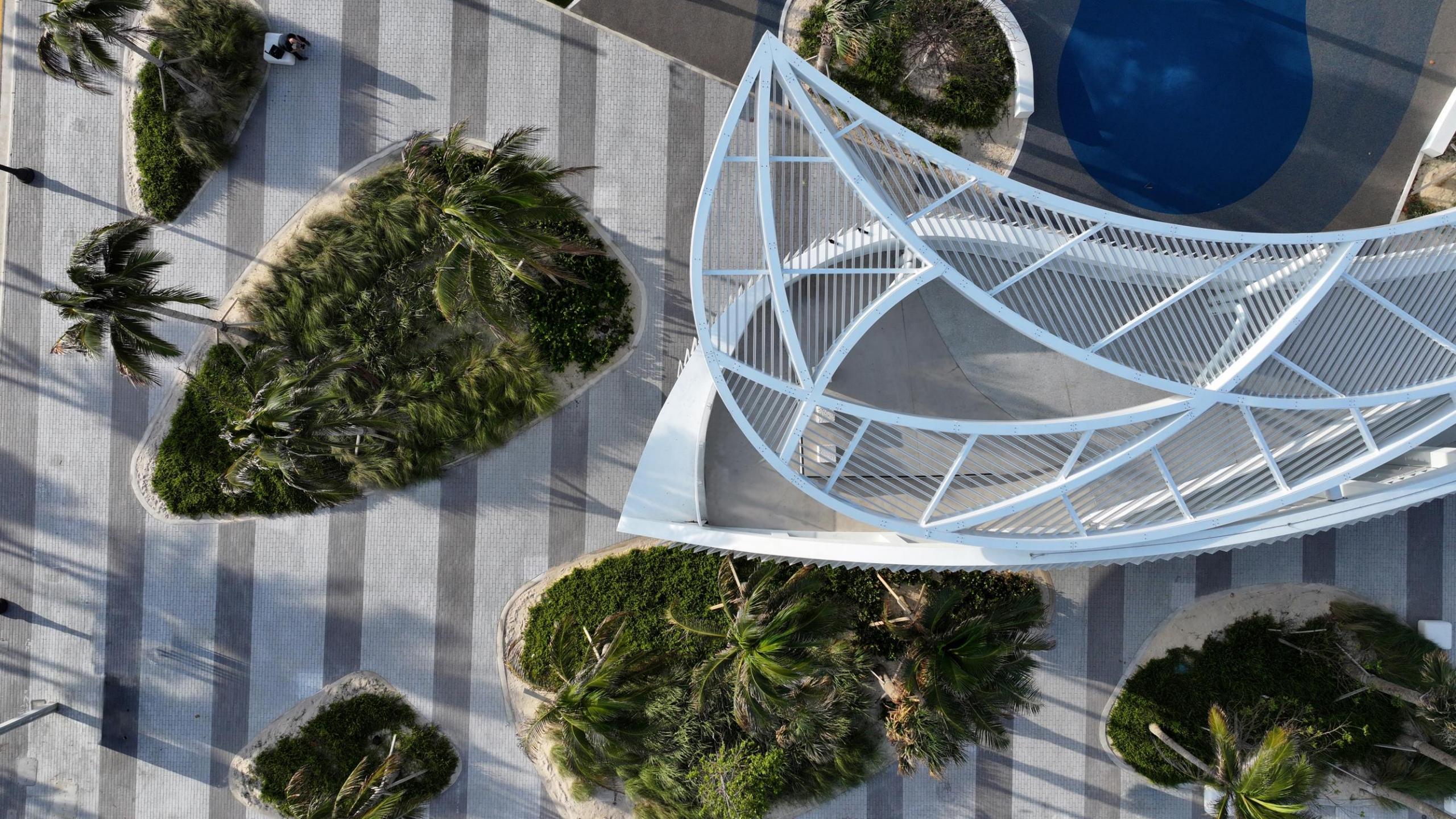
PROPOSED
PARK

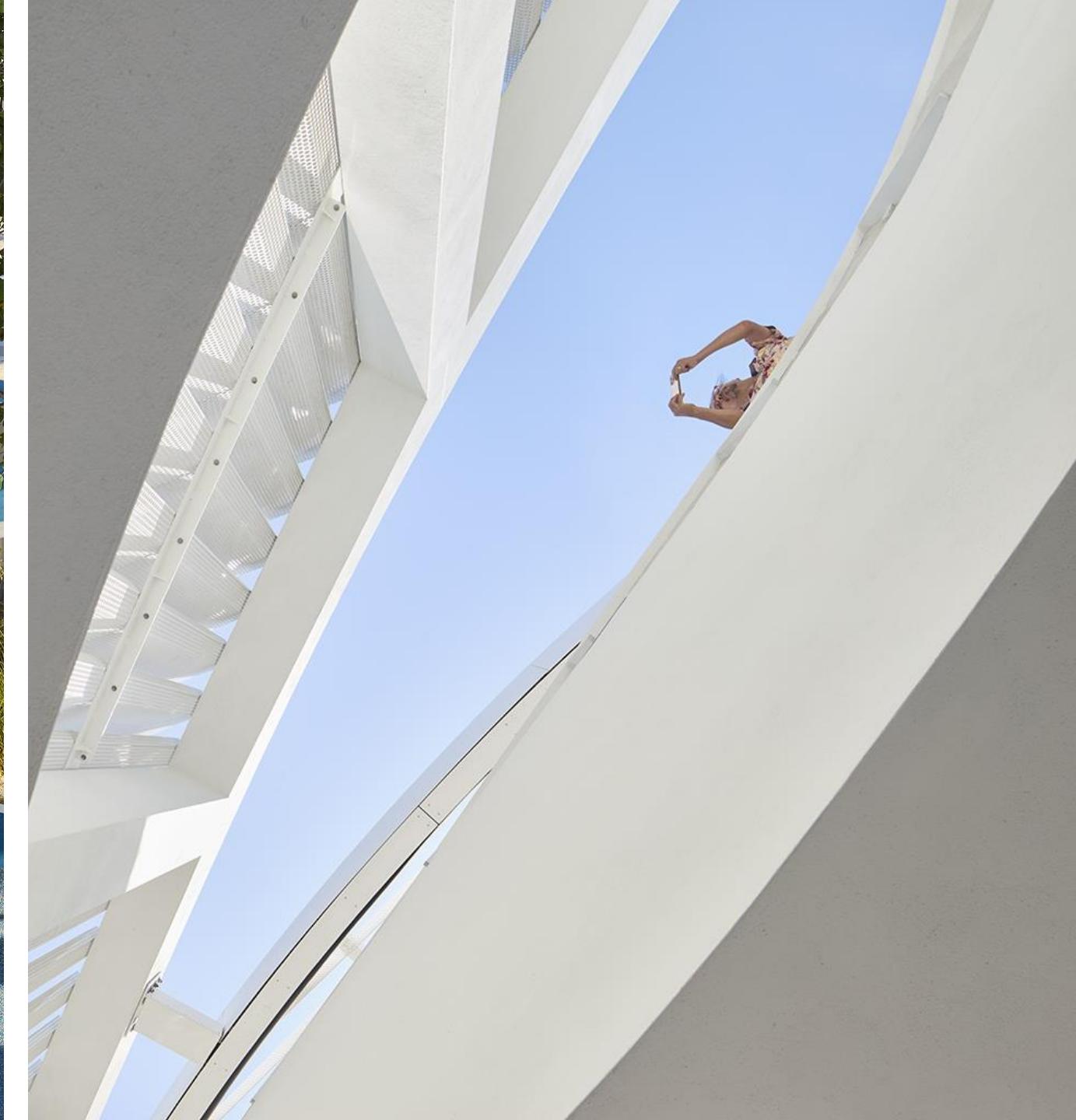






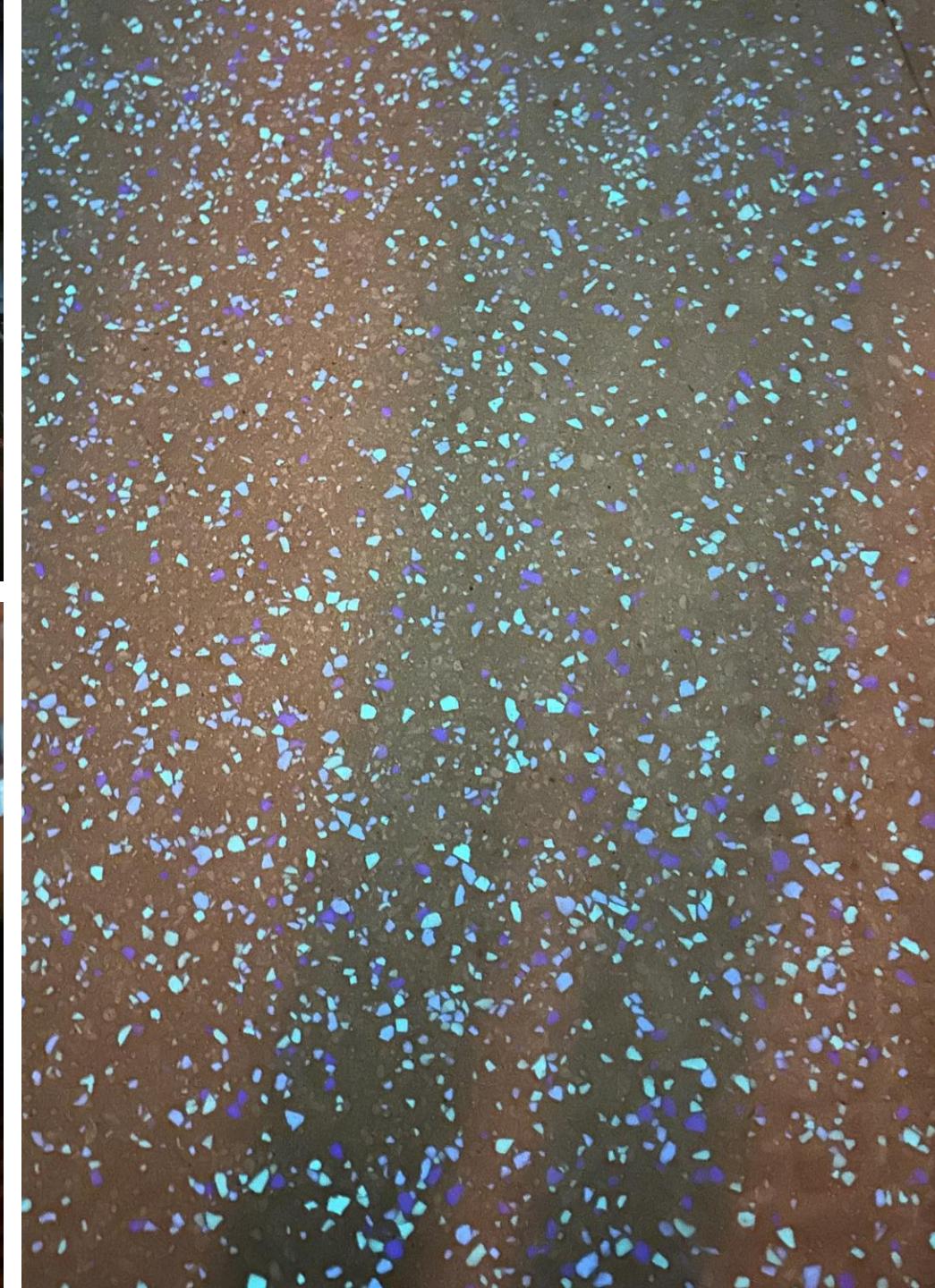
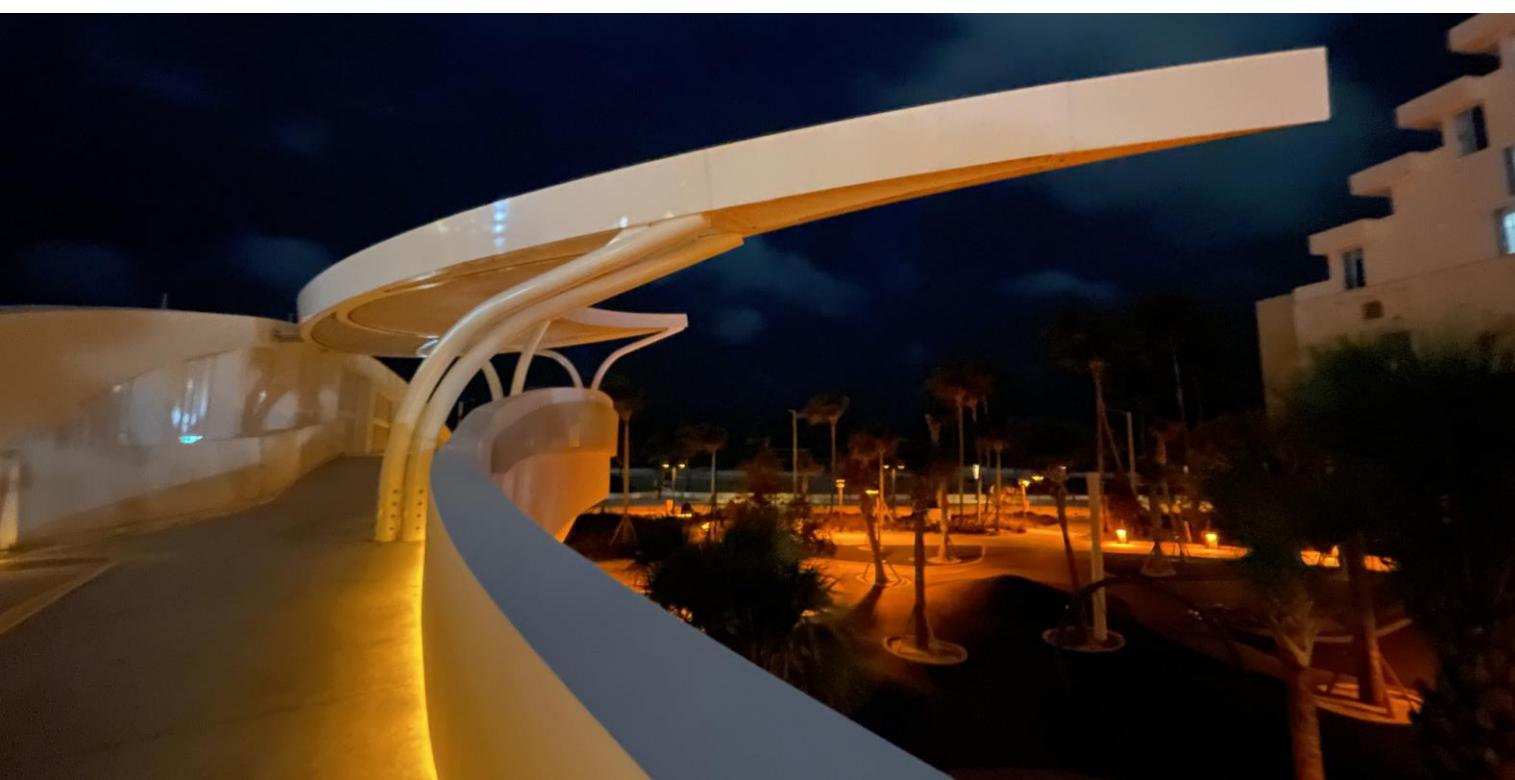














“Supply creates its own demand.” Jean-Baptiste Say, French Economist

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