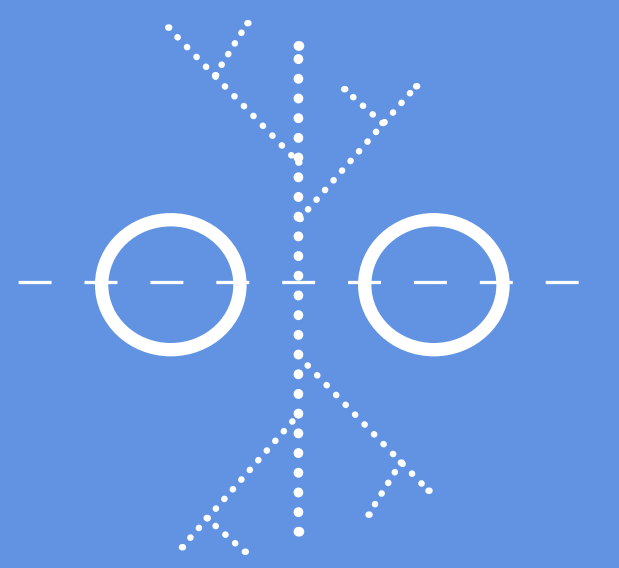
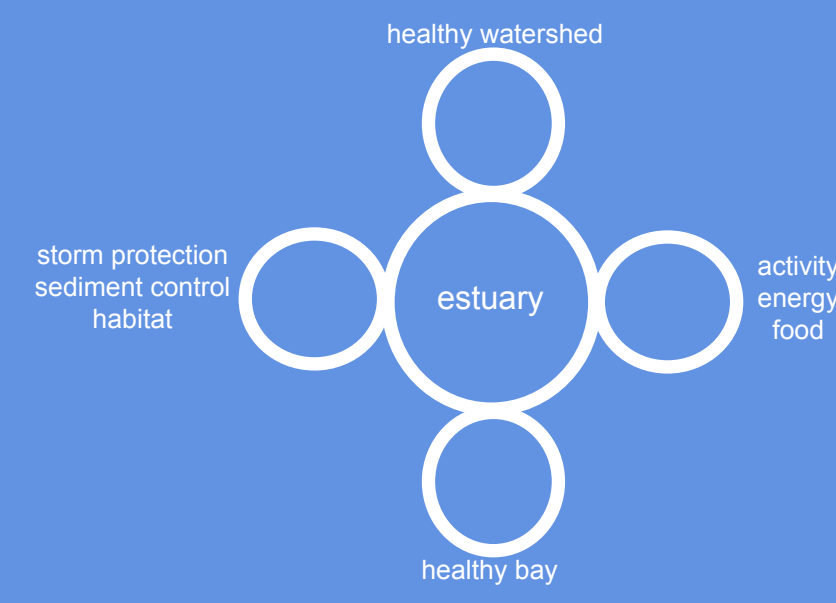
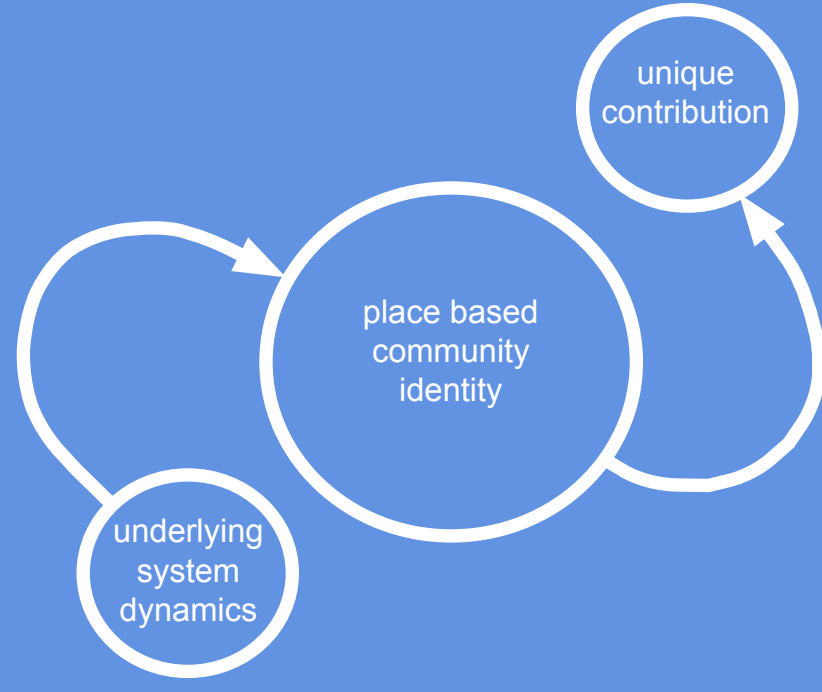
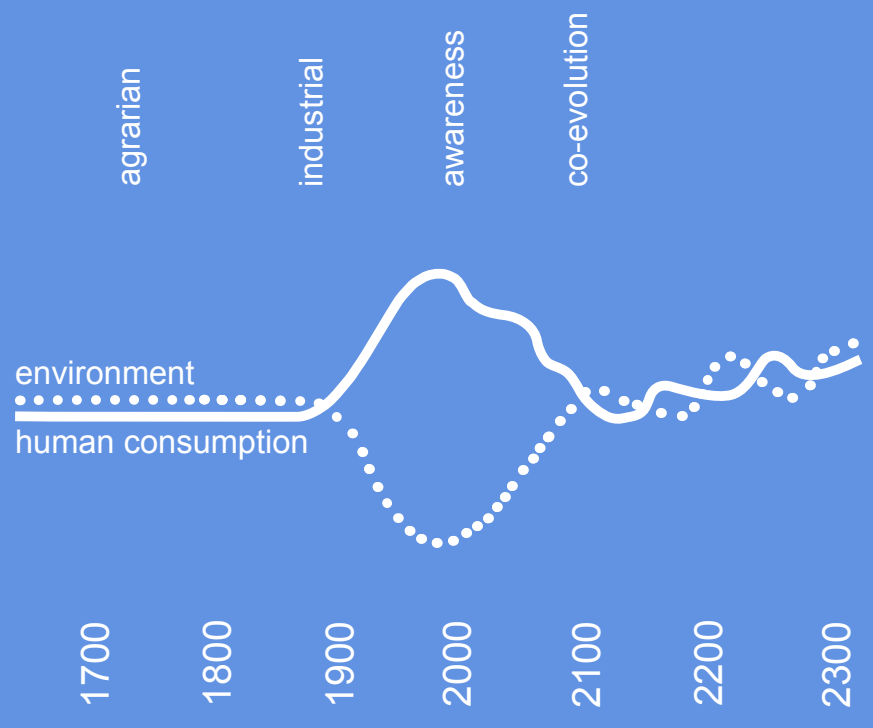


THE ESTUARINE CITY *Evolving A Living Bay Community And Culture*

Urban development has severed, truncated or buried the web of fresh and saltwater systems that sustained life in the San Francisco Bay. Sea level rise offers a rare opportunity to correct this self-destructive pattern, while softening some of the forces unleashed by climate change.

We call for a new kind of urban system: CITY AS ESTUARY



EMERGENT RESPONSE

Learn and adapt through time. Privilege self-organizing biological processes over industrial ones. Grow community intelligence, not dependence.

PATTERN TRANSFERABILITY

This is one watershed of many, one bay of many. Patterned understanding will be transferable. Techniques and structures may not be.

PLACE RELATING

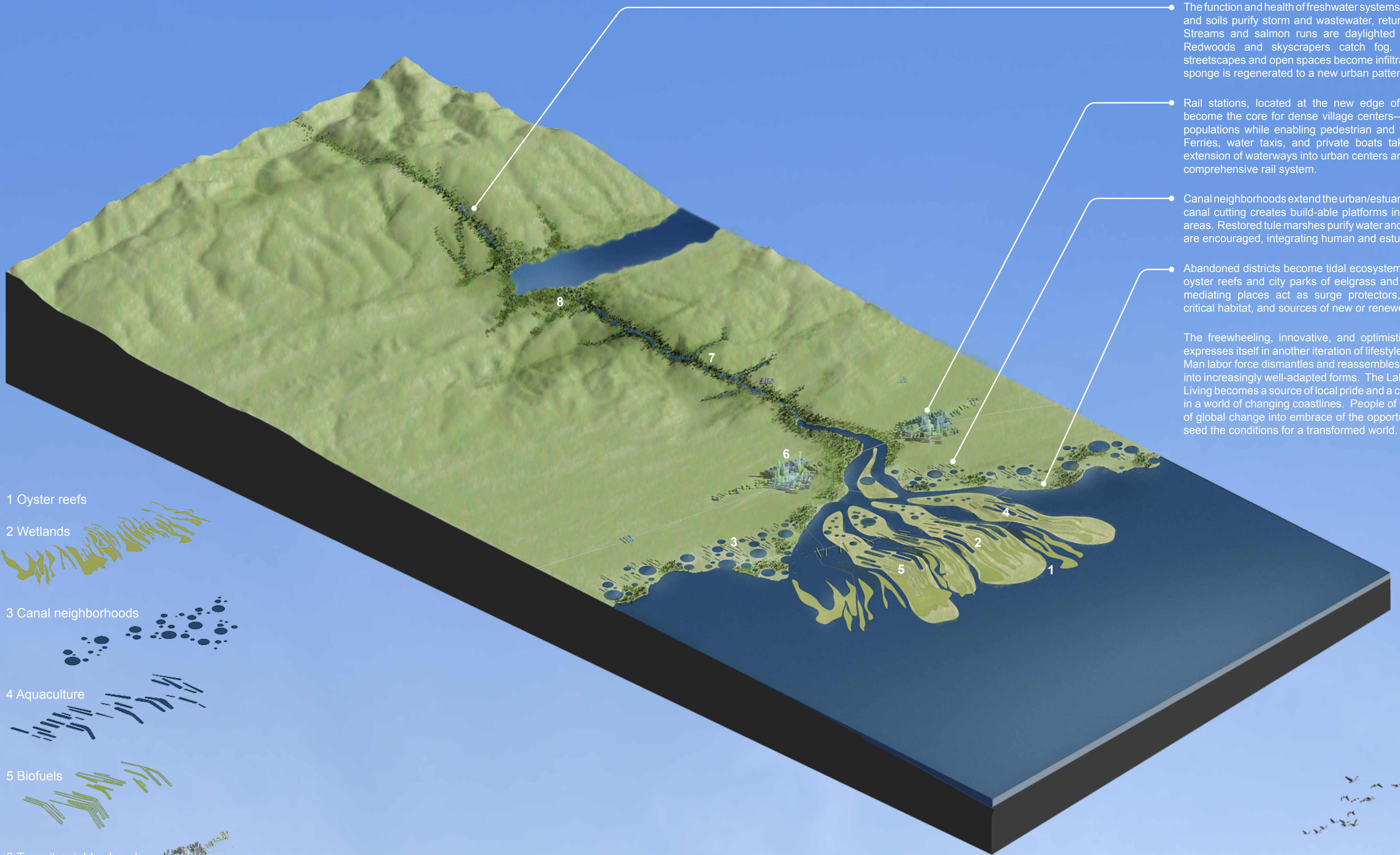
Encourage differentiation; local responses to local conditions. Restore local access to natural and cultural legacy, and to economic opportunity.

ELEGANT HOLISM

Orient to whole system potential, rather than dismantled parts, problems, and solutions. Find leverage points; economize through elegance.

LIFE CONCENTRATING ZONATION

Layer, concentrate, enrich, and densify use. Establish harmonious equilibrium among human density and a density of wildness.



- 1 Oyster reefs
- 2 Wetlands
- 3 Canal neighborhoods
- 4 Aquaculture
- 5 Biofuels
- 6 Transit neighborhoods
- 7 Salmon streams
- 8 Coastal redwoods

IN AN ESTUARINE CITY:

The function and health of freshwater systems is restored. Wetlands and soils purify storm and wastewater, returning it to the aquifer. Streams and salmon runs are daylighted to their headwaters. Redwoods and skyscrapers catch fog. Parks, backyards, streetscapes and open spaces become infiltrators. The watershed sponge is regenerated to a new urban pattern.

Rail stations, located at the new edge of the advancing bay, become the core for dense village centers—absorbing displaced populations while enabling pedestrian and transit oriented lives. Ferries, water taxis, and private boats take advantage of the extension of waterways into urban centers and the interface with a comprehensive rail system.

Canal neighborhoods extend the urban/estuary interface. Spoil from canal cutting creates build-able platforms in otherwise inundated areas. Restored tule marshes purify water and aquaculture gardens are encouraged, integrating human and estuarine purposes.

Abandoned districts become tidal ecosystems, with reconstructed oyster reefs and city parks of eelgrass and juvenile fish. These mediating places act as surge protectors, pollutant removers, critical habitat, and sources of new or renewed economic activity.

The freewheeling, innovative, and optimistic culture of the bay expresses itself in another iteration of lifestyle evolution. A Burning Man labor force dismantles and reassembles the built environment into increasingly well-adapted forms. The Laboratory for Estuarine Living becomes a source of local pride and a competitive advantage in a world of changing coastlines. People of the Bay translate fear of global change into embrace of the opportunity, and once again seed the conditions for a transformed world.

