

PortCityFutures 34

Monthly team meeting

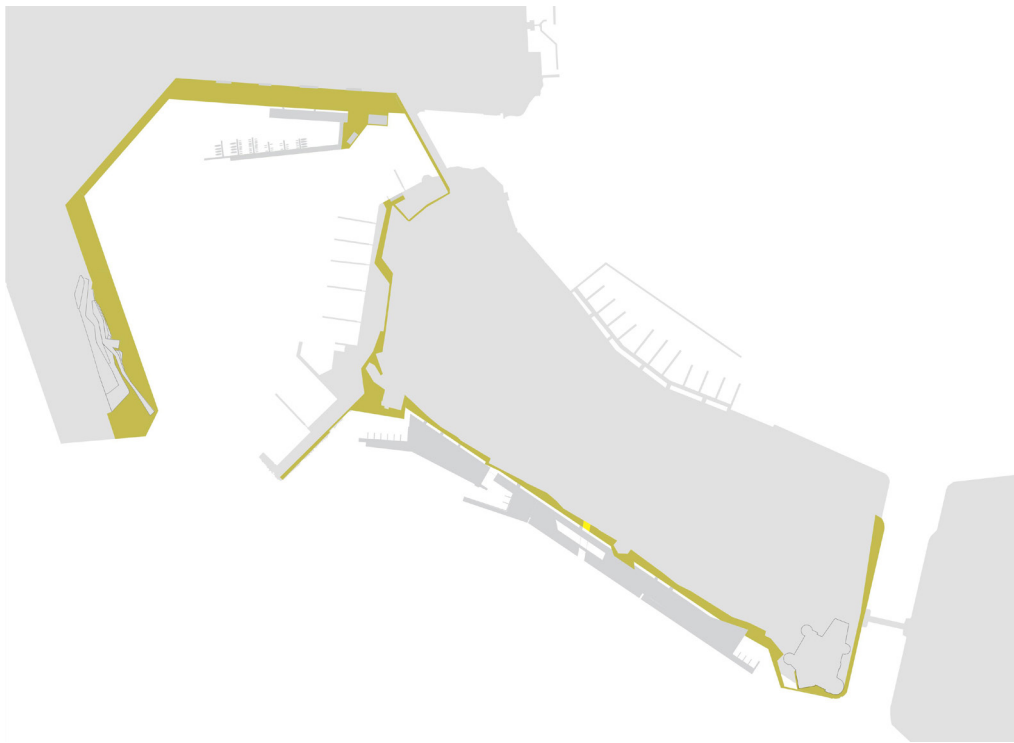


Image by Matteo di Venosa

Agenda

14:00- 14:30: Opening
14:30-14:45: Introducing prof.
Matteo di Venosa & Lia Fedele
14:45-15:20: Breakout rooms
Room 1 Matteo di Venosa, Lia Fedele
Room 2 PortCity Atlas
Room 3 water Idioms
15:20-15:30: Reporting back

15:30-15:45: Break

15:45- 16:45: Presentation: Carlien
Ewusiwah Donkor, Costanza
Franceschini and Koffi Nomedji
16:45-17:00: Questions & wrap up

December 16, 2022 - 14:00 - 17:00

BG.Oost.490, BK Architecture Faculty, Delft

Zoom link: <https://eur-nl.zoom.us/j/99485929201>

City-port interface: topics and research by Matteo di Venosa

City-port interface is a variable geometry area where multiple interactions between the city, port and territory take place. It is a meeting space, an interchange area, an environmental and social frontier where different biological communities are compared. City-port interface changes in relation to many and interrelated processes (metropolitanization, ports clusterization, evolution of transport technologies) with a negative impact on the environmental balance of the coastal city.

The centrality that the environment assumes in the transformation processes of the city-port interfaces requires the preparation of a design approach that aims to operate as a device capable of providing a response to ecological rebalancing, in terms of resilience, energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and environmental safety.

According to this approach, the concept of a waterfront becomes an environmental infrastructure. This reconceptualization aims to overcome the obsolete idea of waterfronts as purely related to commercial and real estate interventions. On the contrary, the concept of the waterfront is reframed as a design principle - incremental and inter-scalar - which considers the risks and geo-environmental fragility of coastal territories as priority themes to trigger urban and territorial regenerations. These topics will be addressed during the Port-City-Future meeting with a focus on Italian case study.

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Image by Koffi Nomedji

“RESEARCH SEMINAR: Carlien Ewusiwah Donkor, Costanza Franceschini and Koffi Nomedji”

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Configuring coastal erosion in Togo

by Koffi Nomedji (Duke University)

In June 2017, some neighborhoods of the small Togolese coastal town of Aneho were flooded by seawater. For the past few decades, the sea has been encroaching on the land; however, this time, the waves reached a vital transnational road connecting five major West African port cities. The threat to the regional economy has triggered a series of state technocratic responses that ignore local communities' interactions with the coastal environment. My work explores the possible collaboration between local ontology and science-based policymaking in producing a relevant response to coastal erosion.

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Image: Source: Google Earth

Growing up differently: the port as a cause of unequal treatment given to twin-cities

by Carlien Donkor (TU Delft)

It is common notion that infrastructural projects could facilitate development of communities. What factors drive infrastructural adjustments? Sekondi-Takoradi was a coastal twin city planned to suit the needs of trade in a colonial era. However, unequal attention has been given to Sekondi due to the strategic location of the port in Takoradi itself. Takoradi has, since the discovery of oil in 2007, been a hotspot for new foreign presence. And yet still, Sekondi remains in the background of the narrative. This presentation highlights how infrastructural development led to the disjointed growth of two cities initially planned as one.

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Image by Costanza Franceschini

Ghana Coastal Fishing Harbours Project: (Chinese) Port Assemblages and their Impact on Local Communities

by Costanza Franceschini (University of Milano-Bicocca)

The Ghana's Coastal Fishing Harbours Project is a Chinese-financed infrastructure project involving twelve communities along the Ghanaian coast. It started in 2006 and, after numerous travails, it finally saw the light in July 2019, when President Nana Akufo-Addo cut sod in one of the communities involved. The project is almost completed - the official end date has been set for the 27th of December 2022 – but its travails are far from over. Through the narration of the project and the main issues related to it, the goal is on the one hand to question the Chineseness of the project, showing how global infrastructure assemblages shape these types of projects, and, on the other hand, to critically address the issue of development and/in local communities.