Ursula Emery McClure, AIA, FAAR, LEED AP BD+C / B.A., 1992

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Alumnae Biography

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AWARDS
Grand Prize, “Coastal Caretaker” Unbuilt Visions 2013 International Architectural Design Competition, d3

PUBLICATIONS
Unbuilt Visions 2013 Ankara, d3 Exhibition, January 7-January 21, 2014
Dredge Fest Louisiana, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA Jan. 11-12, 2014 Symposium and Exhibition

STORM PROOF | COASTAL CARETAKER
TEAM MEMBER
DIGITAL MEDIA
2013

In Louisiana, the shoreline is not a line but a plain, composed of low marshes, scraggly cheniers, and fertile estuaries. In its present fragile state, it serves as the natural storm-surge barrier for five urban environments: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Houston, TX. Increased storm action and a 3-meter sea level rise will inundate this barrier plain and place these urban environments directly on the Gulf of Mexico.

The COASTAL CARETAKERS work to reconstruct the inundated coastal plain, repurposing the elevated infrastructure that remains after future sea level rise and storm system actions. The caretakers clamp to the vertical structure of the abandoned and flooded elevated highway, bridges, train trestles, etc. and cast their nets to capture the sediment deposits of the Mississippi. Over time, these deposits are layered, treated, planted, and then re-deposited to actuate the formation of storm-proofing barrier islands to once again protect these communities.

BIOGRAPHY
Ursula is a founding partner of emerymcclure architecture and also serves as the A. Hays Town Professor in the School of Architecture at Louisiana State University. Presently, she serves as graduate coordinator and teaches studios in the Masters of Architecture program and seminar courses focusing on Louisiana culture and architecture. She studied liberal arts at Washington University in St. Louis, MO with a major in Architecture and a minor in History and received her M.Arch from the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, NYC. Ursula continues to receive accolades for her innovative research and design work.

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