The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno sits on the southwestern tip of San Cristóbal Island, bordered on all sides by the Galápagos National Park. Although it is a city surrounded by a park, the residents have little access to the park due to mandatory fees and limited access points. This project creates a park within and for the city, providing residents with opportunities to experience the unique geology and ecology of the island on their own terms. The new park also provides the town with needed urban spaces, without infringing on or being constrained by the rules of the GNP. The park takes form by connecting existing institutions and their under-utilized land throughout the town. A variety of programs throughout the park will relate the existing institutions to the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. By manipulating the topography, places of water collection and re-direction will help to protect the town from flooding during heavy rains. The build-up of soil and walls will create microclimates that will support species from a variety of ecozones on the island, allowing residents to experience and engage with the specific environments that make their island so unique.
Site Analysis

ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARK

- Visitors must be accompanied by a Galápagos National Park authorized guide.
- Many residents have never visited the National Park due to lack of access and knowledge.

LAND DESIGNATION ON SAN CRISTÓBAL

- Galápagos National Park: 88%
- Rural Area: 11%

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Connecting Institutions and Activating Underutilized Land

- City Park: Basketball and Soccer Courts, Ping Pong Hall, Playground, Sunny garden Path, Restrooms
- Tourist Pier: Used for transportation and inspection of tourists only between the hours of 7:00 - 7:30 am and 3:00 - 3:45 pm
- Charles Darwin Foundation: Current use by high school programs and student Ranger club. Some native species planting and education.
- Government Hill: Provincial government offices and police station overlooking town. Limited pedestrian access.
- Alejandro Von Humboldt High School: Local high school with neglected unused land. Many existing mature plants on site including Palo Santo, Mesquite, and salt bush.
- Waterfront: .5 mile continuous waterfront path with restaurants, shops, and hotels. Frequently used by residents and tourists alike.

Design Strategies

- Divert Spread Collect
- Parcels Connected
- Parcels Cross Stitching
- Activated Edges
- Water Flow Areas of Holding
- Edges of Interception
- Framework

- Parcels Connected
- Divert Spread Collect
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City Park Lot

Central Gardens and Recreation Area

Plaza and Seating

Highschool and Charles Darwin Foundation lot

CDF Botanical Gardens

Scalania Amphitheater
The Galápagos Islands are famous for their endemic animals, yet much less is known about local people and their experiences with the ecology of the islands. On the flip side, the tourists, especially those who stay on ‘boat-hotels,’ have many interactions with wildlife but few with human residents. By analyzing the people and product flows through the existing piers at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, I observed that tourists and locals are separated, and the tourist piers are underutilized while the fisherman’s pier is overcrowded. Furthermore, the current multitude of piers give too much area to boat traffic, thereby encroaching on much-needed sea-lion habitat.

By reorganizing and consolidating activities to the town’s largest pier, which also leads to the town center, this project aims to create more encounters between tourists and locals, and give more visibility to the exchange of local products. This “mega-pier” includes transportation of fishes and highland produce, tourist embarking/dismounting, an outdoor market, and a new beach area. By consolidating activities to one pier, other areas can be designed for recreation and animal habitat.
Site Analysis & Operations

Existing: Disordered Pier Activities

Proposed: Consolidation of Activities & Beach Generation

Multi-functional Pier Design

Sections
a. Fisherman’s Dock
b. Tourist Dock
c. Beach Area
Beach Generation Concept Design

Sequential plans show beach generation and tidal changes over time.

Existing Condition

Initial Operation

Before

After
This book is comprised of select projects that best represent the range of ideas explored in this studio at the University of Pennsylvania. The studio was guided by Karen M’Closkey and focused in and around Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal Island, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador. I wish to thank all of my fabulous students who went on this journey with me. The students and I would like to thank Michael Weisberg, Ernesto Vaca, Penn’s Program in Environment Humanities, the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, and the many wonderful people we met along the way. Special thanks to Zhexuan Liao, Yang An, and Dorothy Jacobs for book design.