

**Atlas of Ideas**

**Diving into Possible Futures**

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Fluid Soils  
*(Co)Designing for the Wadden Sea Landscapes*

edited by Laura Cipriani

# Colophon

Fluid Soils  
*(Co)Designing for the Wadden Sea Landscapes*

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The exhibition.  
Photo: Xinjian Jiang, 2023.

## 4 | Atlas of Ideas

*Diving into Possible Futures*

Laura Cipriani | TU Delft

This second part of the work—‘Atlas of Ideas’—is the product of a work initially shared by the entire design studio class aimed at producing—thanks to a series of participatory techniques—shared scenarios and projects over the short, medium, and long terms. The adopted approach is focused on design as a research method by addressing global-scale challenges through regional-, local-, and small-scale interventions. Territories and cities affected by several climatic, environmental, and economic crises require a holistic approach: from ecological design to resilient planning, from the water management of extreme events to water quality issues and sea intrusion phenomena, and rural-urban landscapes to cultural landscapes and related economic-productive systems.

The design studio included several participatory phases involving the students and some institutional and non-institutional stakeholders to exchange

knowledge and ideas. The workshop, entitled *Wet Sand. Wet Mud. Wet Land*, included a co-design session with the Province of Friesland, Wetteskip Frysland, and experts from multiple interdisciplinary fields. The working group highlighted effective short- and medium-term solutions whose effects could be extended to a long-term time horizon. Looking to the future is necessary to guarantee possibilities that make the territory productive, even in the short term. All of the proposed plans are based on simple elements and aim to redevelop the landscape by strengthening existing micro-economies or establishing latent economies that can become seeds of potential development. Each project starts mainly from the site specificities of the territory to embrace possible futures and design possibilities.

Following the research and project phases, the work was presented at a symposium and exhibition in Leeuwarden to propose small steps of collective action to narrate and promote the territory, its specificities, its crises, and the possibilities for change. The event, *Embracing the Future of the Wadden Sea Landscapes: Voices and Imageries from Students and Educators*, aimed



The exhibition.  
Photo: Xinjian Jiang, 2023.



The workshop *Wet Sand. Wet Mud. Wet Land* at TU Delft to envision a common future starting from sand, clay and peat. TU Delft students (Anna Gorokhova, Xinjian Jiang, Zhaolei Li) worked together with an interdisciplinary group of professors (Diego Sepulveda, Laura Cipriani, and Peter Herman) in conjunction with the Province of Fryslân (Stephan Smeijers) and the Friesland water authority called Wetterskip Fryslân (Joca Jansen).

Photos featuring the workshop *Wet Sand. Wet Mud. Wet Land*. Photos: Laura Cipriani, 2023.

The symposium and exhibition *Embracing the Future of the Wadden Sea Landscapes: Voices and Imageries from Students and Educators* aimed to propose a moment of reflection and exchange between landscape architecture schools, institutions, and associations. The event was organized within the Landscape Triennale by Laura Cipriani with Saskia de Wit and was hosted by the Province of Friesland in Leeuwarden. Representatives came from TU Delft, Wageningen University, Amsterdam Academy of Architecture, Hanze Academy of Architecture, Lund University, NVTL, Wadden Academy, Province of Fryslân, Wetterskip Fryslân, and the Landscape Triennale.

Photos featuring the symposium and exhibition *Embracing the Future of the Wadden Sea Landscapes*. Photos: Laura Cipriani, 2023.



to propose a moment of reflection and exchange between landscape architecture schools, institutions, and associations. How do young generations and educators envision the future of the Wadden Sea territories? How will these landscapes be modified in the years to come? How do we embrace the past and present and imagine the future? The event focused on landscape design as a catalyst for change. Students and educators presented design results and ideas on the future of the Wadden Sea coasts and landscapes, from the sea to the beach to the rural and urban inland areas.

The hope is to focus on the future of these places, on *fluid soils* and their ecological and climatic transitions, without forgetting how the hope for change starts constructing a *landscape thinking* in the minds of younger generations. Collective work is a way to encourage the construction of transdisciplinary education to tackle today's unprecedented uncertainties and challenges. As in a geological process, I hope that changes to existing practices will take root in the minds and actions of these future professionals. As American soil scientist Charles Kellogg once said: '*Nature has*

*endowed the earth with glorious wonders and vast resources that man may use for his own ends. Regardless of our tastes or our way of living, there are none that present more variations to tax our imagination than the soil, and certainly none so important to our ancestors, to ourselves, and to our children'* (Kellogg, 1941).