

Why do the people of the Volta Delta on the eastern coast of Ghana and thereby many other people in coastal areas across the world have to run from erosion? Why do they have to flee from the dynamics of nature and lose their whole livelihoods?

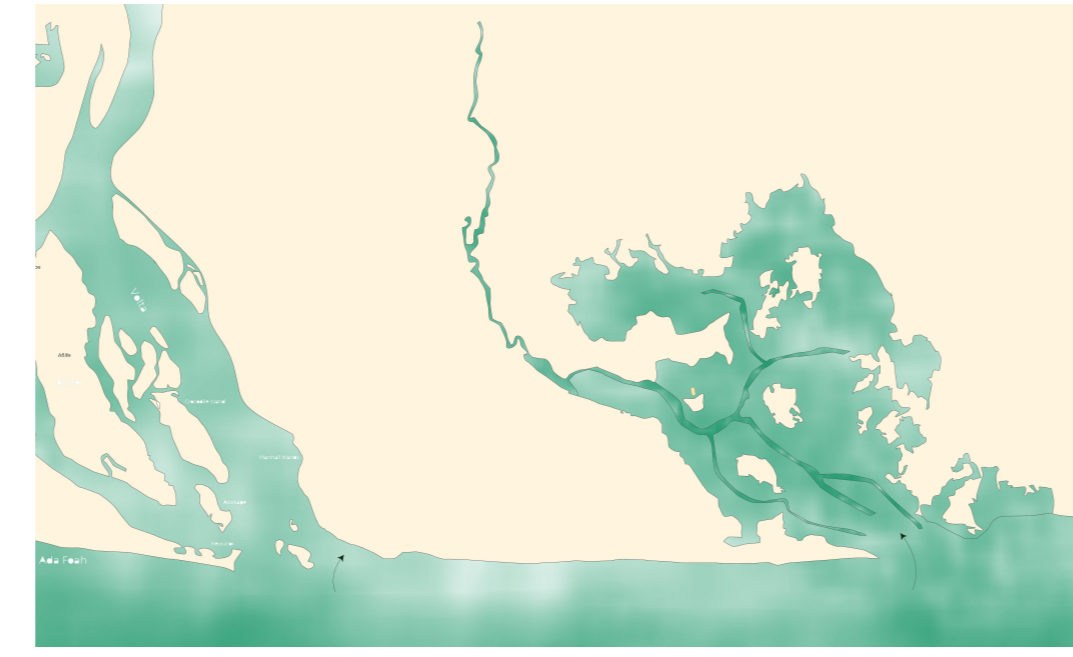
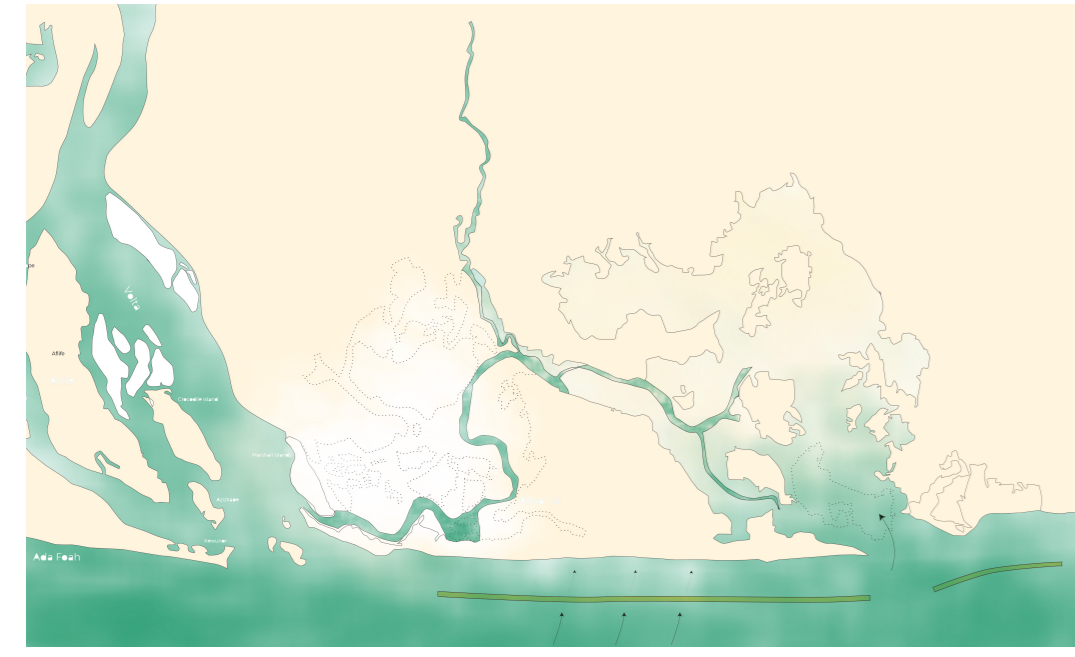
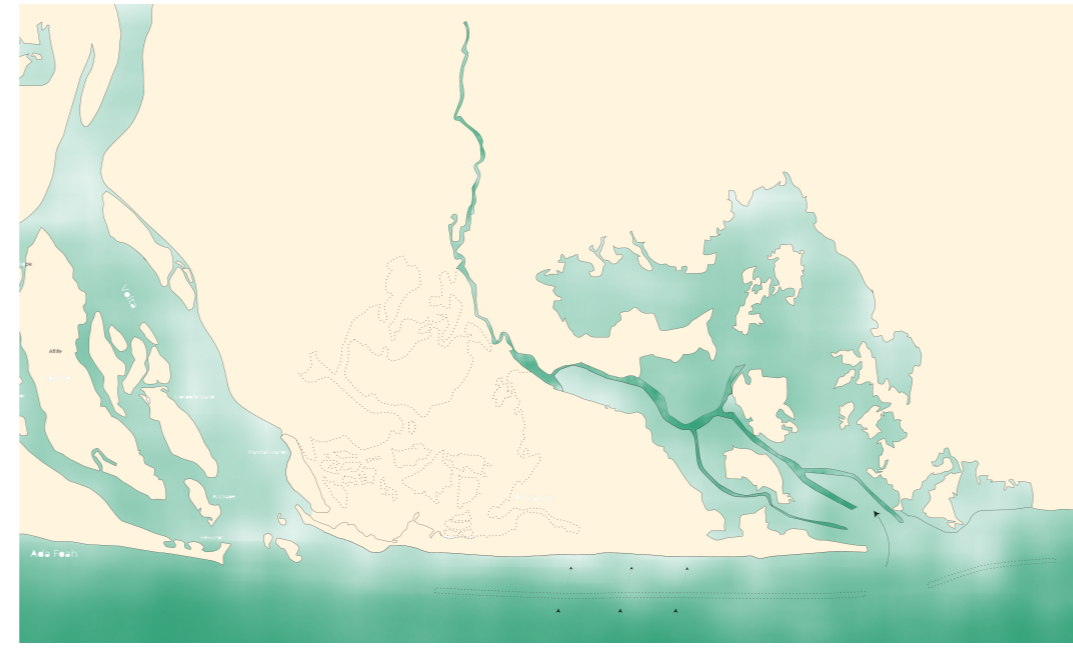
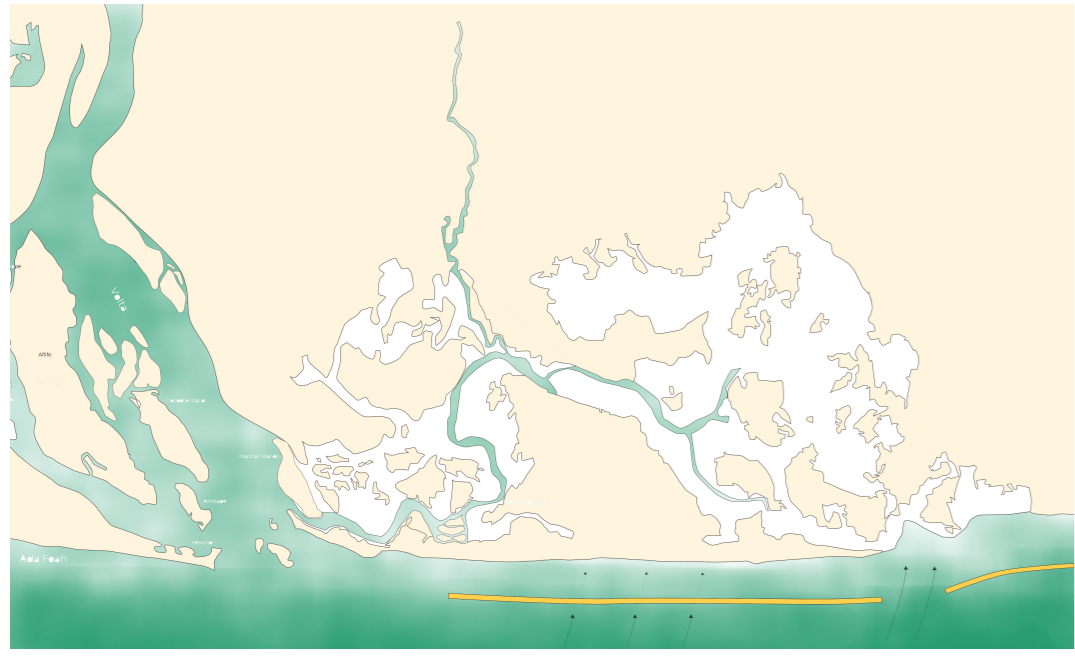
Erosion shouldn't be a threat. It should be a benefit to communities. It should be something that can be used to improve well-being and raise the quality of life. It should be welcomed instead of feared.

This thesis shows that erosion can accommodate instead of frustrate. That erosion can be designed to be an integrated beneficial element of daily life.

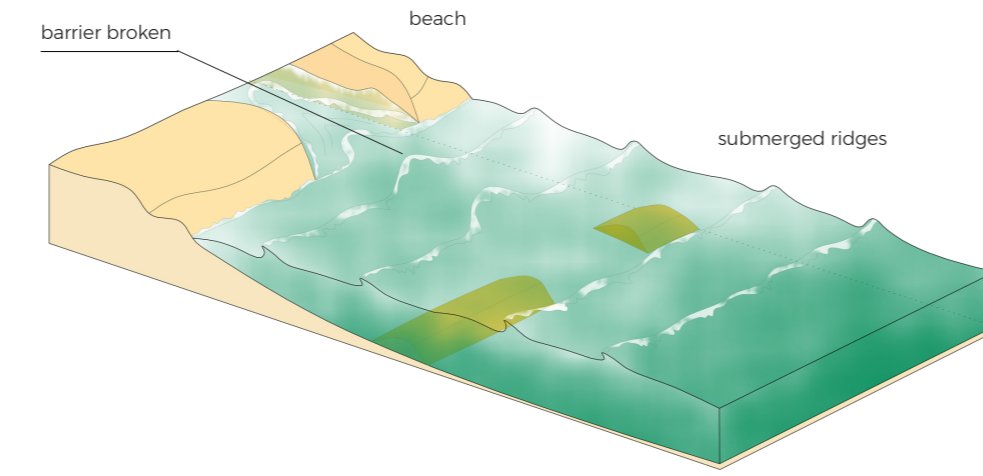
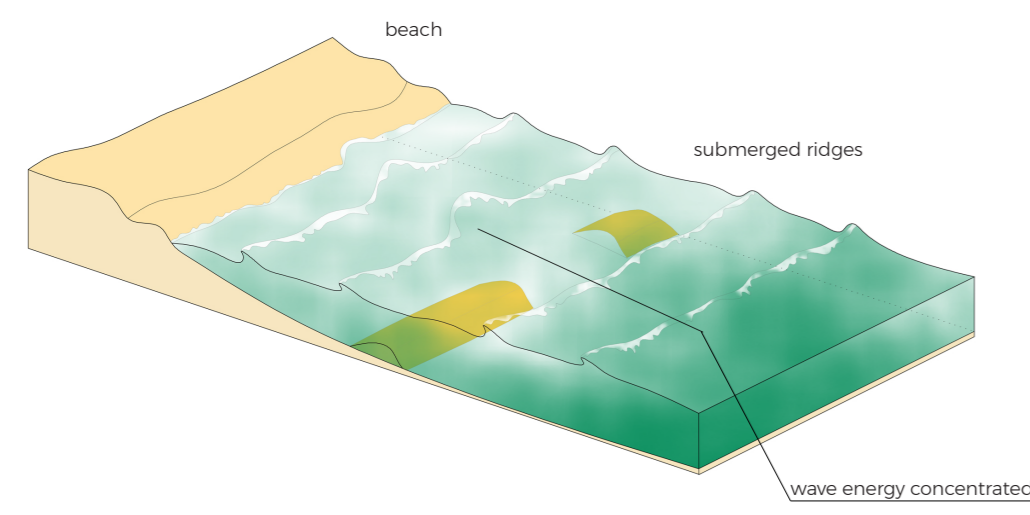
By: using erosion to design an affording landscape like a tidal inlet, placing an attractive element to start development which at the same time welcomes erosion (changing the attitude towards it), defining the edges of settlement and by leaving enough room for interpretation both for the cultural people and dynamic nature.

This graduation project moves on a spectrum between artistic and scientific by combining civil engineering, landscape architecture and anthropology. It shows a humble position within landscape architecture where design is a development starter instead of a finality. It shows how design can be flexible and affording and how landscape architecture can give an answer to complex issues like the erosion the Volta Delta in Ghana is facing.

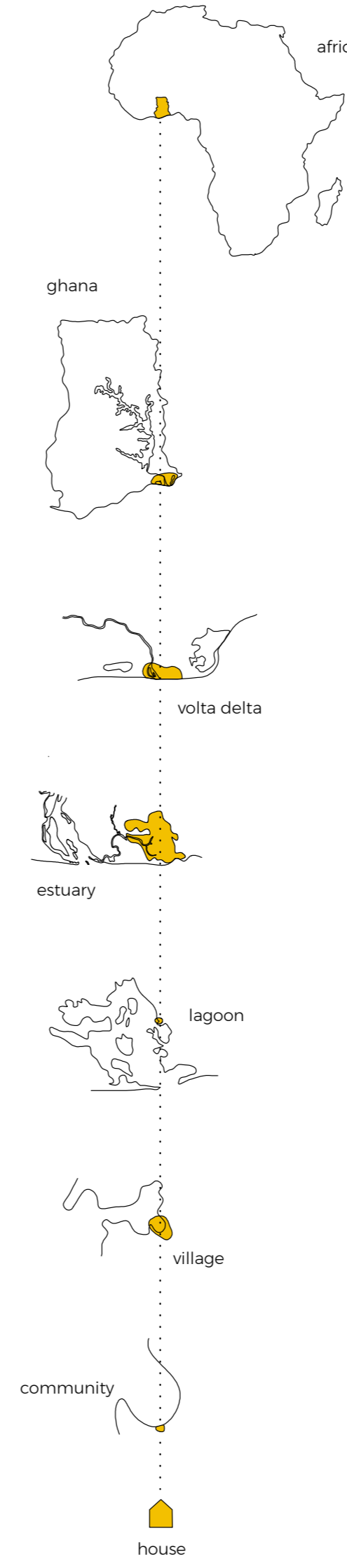
Keywords: erosion, Ghana, well-being, landscape architecture



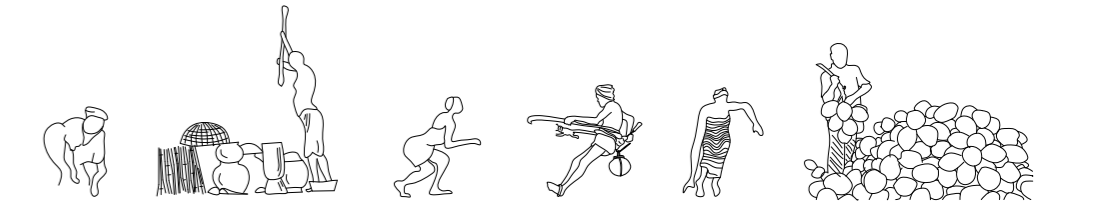
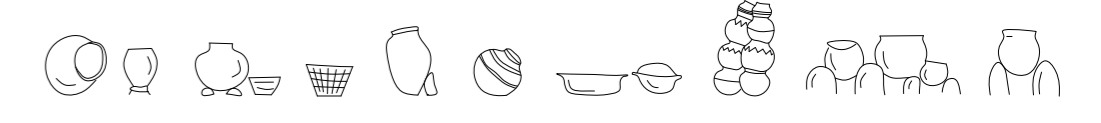
tidal inlet formation



increasing erosion



scales of design



"My community lives very close to the water. When the water came to this landscape we were very happy because it meant we were starting our new lives. A reality where the sea doesn't steal our way of life. Our way of life is fishing. Before my grandparents and many generations on, my family was already fishing. The children learn the trade from the elders and they teach it to their children. Fishing is part of us. I know most people think fish smells bad, but for me it smells like home. In our new environment the water created a safe landscape without losing the connection to it which is most important for our fishing community. I like it how the sea is such a powerful thing and now it is helping us live our lives."

