

Out of Water Project

Innovative Technologies in Arid Climates

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While water scarcity is a problem of global proportions, it is particularly significant and potentially irreversible in arid zones. Today, 14% of the world's biomes are Arid, another 14% are Semi-Arid, and 2% are Mediterranean. Given global warming, today's arid zones are bound to change and expand. According to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), one quarter of the earth's land mass is already threatened by desertification. The United Nations projects that in the next 10 years, 50 million people will be living in desert contexts, potentially causing major migration fluxes, political tensions, and instabilities. Climactic pressure is exacerbated by a series of other factors such as population growth and increases in industrial and agricultural consumption.

Finding solutions to inhabit the desert sustainably will not only mitigate the effects of water scarcity but may also slow down desertification. Faced with the shortage of water, how will existing and future cities and landscapes adjust to the drastic environmental shift?

Out of Water is a response to this looming challenge. The goal of the exhibition is to constructively re-imagine urban futures through the use of water technologies and to delineate an expanded vocabulary of water resources, quality, and infrastructural/architectonic relations to our urban environments.

The first part documents a set of contemporary case studies and technologies and tools for collection, conversion, and distribution of water sources in arid climates. The second part showcases the speculative scenarios for a new water culture in arid climates by a select group of young architects, landscape architects, material technologists, and urban planners.

For press enquiries, please contact info@oowproject.com

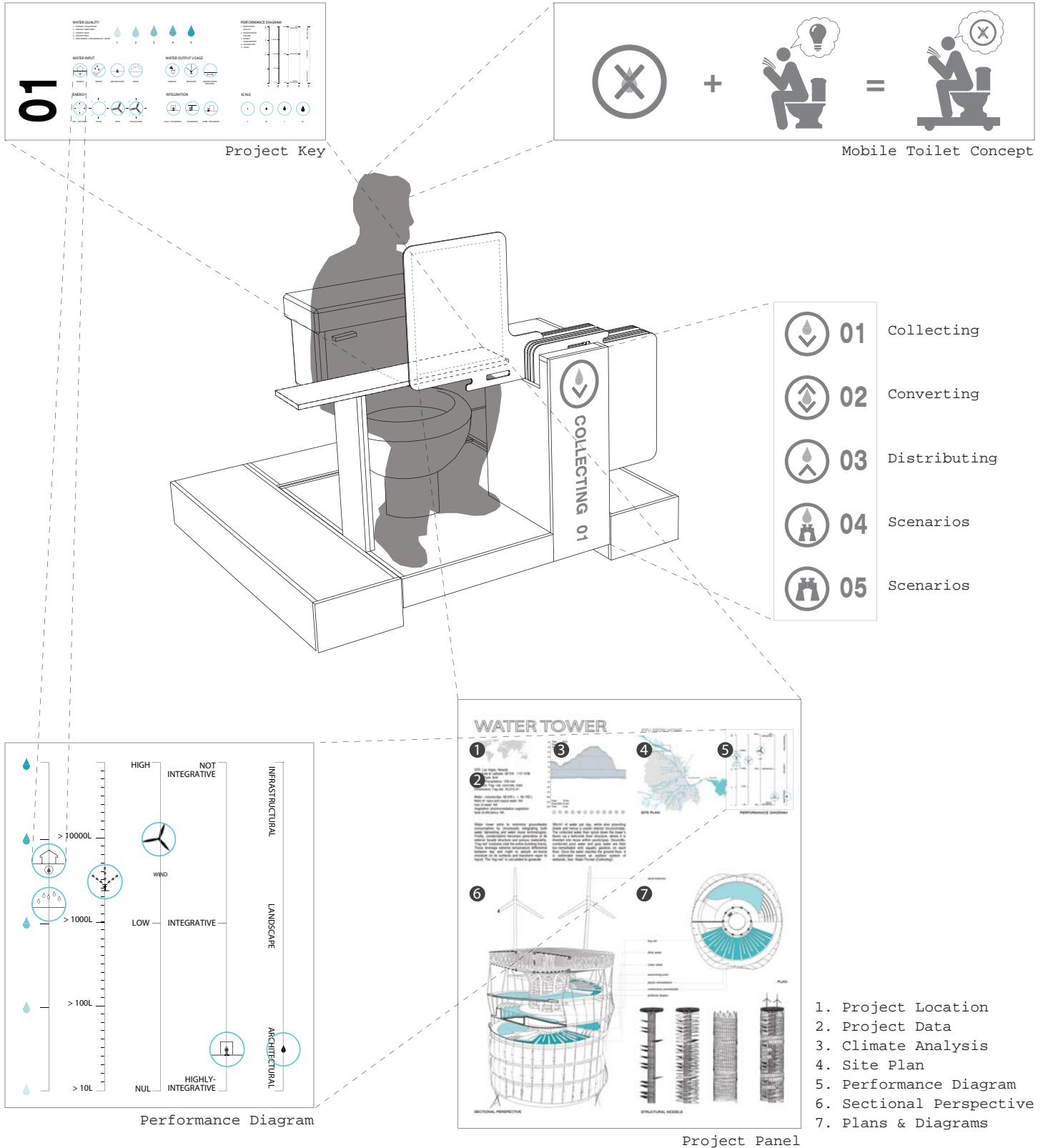


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John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Design

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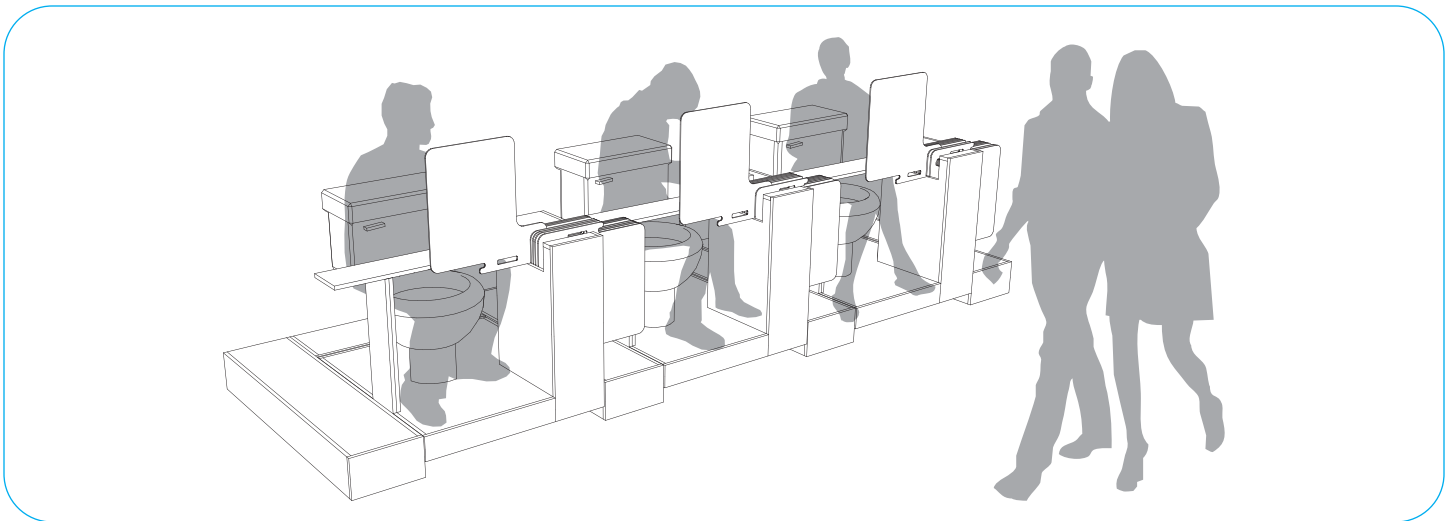
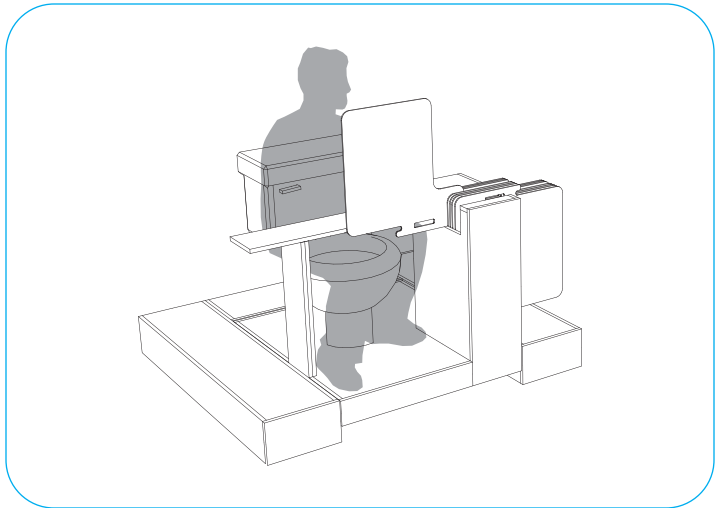
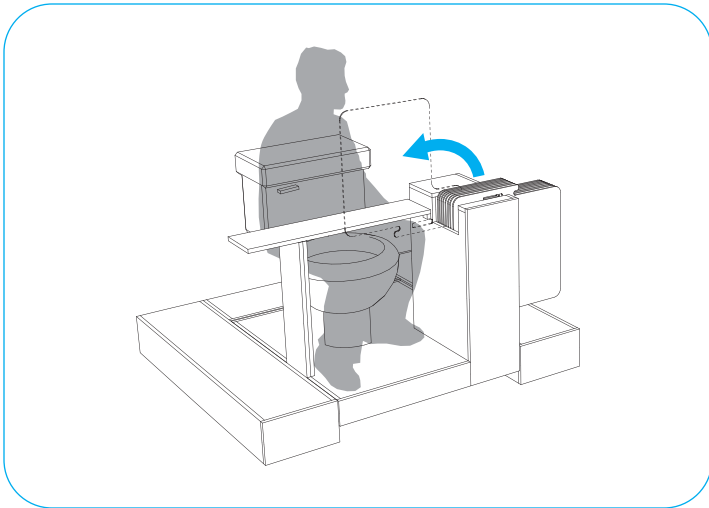
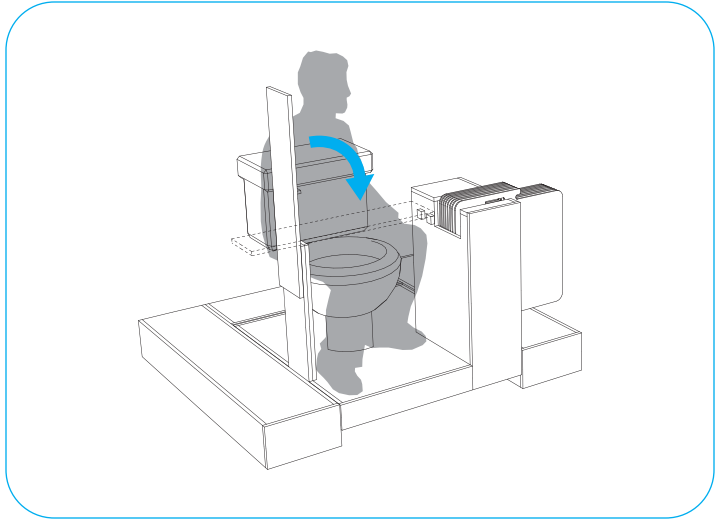
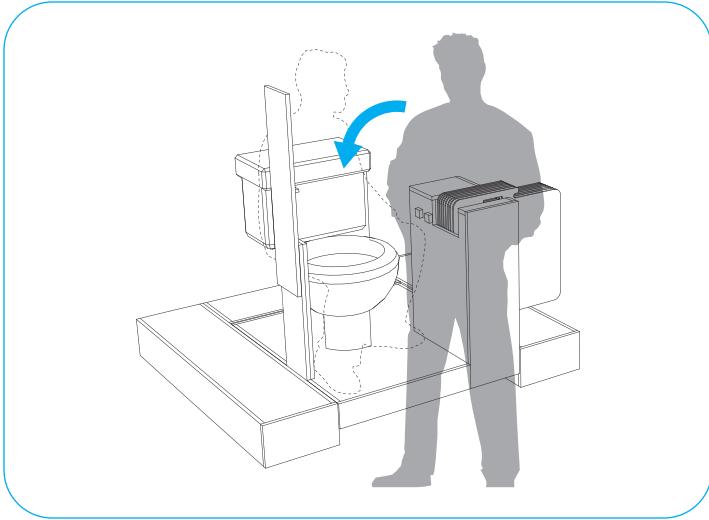
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The Mobile Toilet is used to present water conservation case studies and technologies.



Children learning about scenarios for a new water culture in arid climates.



The legend for the drawings is placed on a pivoting table.



The drawings representing the research are placed on pivoting panels.

OUT OF WATER

innovative technologies in arid climates
liat margolis + aziza chaoun

While water scarcity is a problem of global proportions, it is particularly significant and potentially irreversible in arid zones. Today, 14% of the world's biomes are Arid, another 14% are Semi-Arid, and 2% are Mediterranean. Given global warming, today's arid zones are bound to change and expand. According to UNEP, one quarter of the earth's land is already threatened by desertification, while the United Nations projects that in the next 10 years 50 million people will be living in desert contexts, potentially causing major migration fluxes, political tensions, and instabilities. Climactic pressure is exacerbated by a series of other factors such as population growth and increases in industrial and agricultural consumption.

Finding solutions to inhabit the desert sustainably will not only mitigate water scarcity, but also contribute to prevention of the phenomenon of desertification. How would existing and future cities and landscapes adjust to this drastic environmental shift, whose crucial challenge will rest in water shortage? Two methods of adaptation seem possible: 'Green the Desert' – maintain water consumption and cultivation in a sustainable manner, or 'Embrace Leniency' - acknowledge limited resources and change usage patterns. This exhibition is a response to this looming challenge; it's goal is to constructively re-imagine urban futures through the use of green technologies.

It first unpacks the different environmental, geographic, and political forces linked to potential shifts of deserts across the globe. That data generates a new world map of "hot zones" – a convergence, of expanding arid climate and water stresses, which form the most arduous urban milieus. Second, it documents projects that demonstrate innovative technologies, methodologies, and tools that extract, store, and manage water in arid climates. Third, it showcases selected young architects, landscape architects, material technologists, and urban planners and their speculative scenarios for a new water culture in arid climates.

