

# ENVISIONING A CITY THROUGH ARCHITECTURE'S PHYSICAL & SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS

## ARCHITECTURE AS INFRASTRUCTURE

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Architecture is analogous to a scaffold that supports and generates the possibility of human interaction. It has capabilities of navigating social, political, and physical properties in a unique manner that purely technical disciplines cannot. Subsequently, architecture also embodies an implicit social dynamic while providing a physical construct.

What is it about architecture that articulates and provokes the potential for a greater complexity? How can we invest in architecture as part of an economic, political, social, and infrastructural system, rather than a separate entity supplanted onto a site?

This project pursues a critical analysis and explores a creative alternative for designing architecture in relation to existing physical and social infrastructures within Santos, Brazil. The site is an existing passenger ferry terminal situated adjacent to Santos' historic downtown and the Port of Santos. The thesis questions and focuses on how architecture can be used as a social infrastructural system that becomes an indicative catalyst for inhabitation and programming, more so than a definitive constraint. In doing so, it will also explore the role of architecture in facilitating indeterminacy, meanings and affects occurring beyond the control of an author that continuously evolve over time.

"Architecture is uniquely capable of structuring the city in ways not available to practices such as literature, film, politics, installation art, or advertising. Yet because of its capacity to actualize social and cultural concepts, it can also contribute something that strictly technical disciplines such as engineering cannot"

-Stan Allen "Infrastructural Urbanism" 1999

