Often the water paradigm in Asian cities was one of (1) integration of different actors, forces, aspects of life and (2) adaptation and a certain degree of accommodation of the forces of nature. Today – in a period of economic liberalization and transition from tradition to modernity – water is often regarded from a singular and dominating perspective (be it political, technical or commercial). As both urbanization and environmental challenges increase, water issues are on the rise while the plural and adaptive manner to deal with them is side-lined in the name single actors or single sector dominance. Today, Vietnamese and Chinese cities are facing incredible challenges. Existing urban cores are far beyond their carrying-capacity and infrastructure provision can simply not keep pace with the rapid urban transformations.

The objectives of the studio are:
- to speculate on alternative urban morphologies for cities under the pressure of rapid urbanization;
- to address the multi-dimensional, the multi-disciplinary and the territorial/spatial nature of the water issue, in this case flooding and harvesting caused by rapid urbanization and severe environmental changes;
- to facilitate interpretative synthesis in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a territory that faces the danger of flooding;
- to bridge the gap between sectors, between disciplines, between knowledge and policy by facilitating the formulation of territory-based strategic programs and projects that are capable to act as integrating devices.

In the design studio, the final design project is to formulate a research question, address design methodologies and process the necessary and relevant information in order to come up with a well argued design proposal approached from many facets.

The studio will:
- address the city as a body;
- consider urban form and structures from nature;
- address the regional/city scale and the interplay between different scales;
- deal with different time-scales;
- design public space in its relation with the urban strategy and strategic projects;
- design for complexity (e.g., incorporating transformation & adaptation, uncertain programmatic conditions, etc.);
- integrate strategic considerations into the design concept.

The studio will consist of three intensive design workshops:
1. In Cantho, Vietnam
2. In Wujin, China
3. In Melbourne, Australia

The study tour will visit the following sites: Cantho, Mekong Delta, Ho Chi Minh City, Shanghai Expo, Suzhou, Wujin

Pre Departure Workshop Melbourne: 9th -12th June, 2010
Travel Dates:
Departure Date: 27th June, 2010
Return Date: 17th July, 2010
Portfolio Submission 26th July, 2010

$5,200.00 which includes flights, accommodation and all on the ground travel. Students who are interested in the design studio must ballot for the studio and pay a $200.00 non-refundable deposit by the 5th March.