

# **FUTURE FRAMEWORKS / NYC**

**A Design Research Studio on Infrastructure, Equity and Ecology**

Infrastructure is now the critical subject in urbanism. The potential utility and technological imaginary of infrastructural systems are confronted by its contingencies in culture, the environment, and politics. Perhaps the traditional discourse of “infrastructural urbanization” understood infrastructure as existing in a space between skepticism and positivism. How do environmental and political challenges—and, more importantly—responses to those challenges, present themselves as a design formulation with infrastructure as its central figure? Cultural representation is the means for imagining alternative futures. In other words, the role of infrastructure and the material conditions from which infrastructures emerge are neither politically neutral nor culturally muted. This design research studio focuses on defining relational infrastructure and urban modeling strategies for increasing public access, providing equitable alternatives, and elevating ecologies for better urban futures.



207th MTA Rail Yard, Inwood, New York, NY

*“No longer simply what is hidden or beneath another urban structure, many infra-structures are the urban formula, the very parameters of global urbanism.”*

- Keller Easterling, 2011  
Yale University

01 /

Equity must be made fundamental to urban design and planning.

02 /

Infrastructure and utility easements should become public space: *active* and *accessible*.

03 /

Alternative models for housing must be built on innovative forms of infrastructure.

04 /

Zoning should mitigate questions of density beyond FAR.

05 /

“Green space” must become more than manicured parks: *porous* and *productive*.

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