dynamic systems, extreme climates, nimble infrastructures

going rogue

ANCHORAGE, AK is the northernmost large city in the United States. It has a population over 280,000, containing almost half of the state’s people. The city lies in the northeastern corner of Cook Inlet, and is largely exposed to water on its perimeter between Knik Arm and Turnagain Arm. Cook Inlet has the largest daily tidal fluctuation in the United States at around 35’. Despite the abundance of water, the city of Anchorage provides little active contact with its waterfront and no port landings at all for passenger ships at all.

For we southerners...

There was a time we constructed a representation of the far north as a disconnected peripheral condition. Going there was a journey to the “end of the world” to be on the “edge of nowhere”. Our notion of the north as cut-off to utilize its territory as an extraction field and testing ground... There was a time when travel in the far north was reserved for the rugged explorer; movement was slow through the thick, cold space, loaded down by excess provisions for potential predicaments and only affordable or allowable as an empire-building mission... There was a time when snow and ice were understood to be in relative stillness. The far northern landscape, we thought, cycled, without subtlety, between being entirely alive: in bloom under a full sun or completely dormant, a frozen capsule that periodically halted life.

Myths about the far north in general, revolve around isolation, slow movement, and death due to its extreme climate. This studio positions the far north as an interconnected and integral part of our world where access and passage have been opened to many. We will look closely at the cyclical changes between warm (liquid + light) and cold (solid + dark) periods as specific to their active lives rather than opposing them dialectically. We will seek a nimble infrastructure that simultaneously supports and adapts to the specific needs of these highly differing conditions within its framework.

Program
Warm program: Port Landing and Terminal for medium and large sized passenger ships
Cold program: Adaptations for Winter Recreation

The studio will prioritize the port terminal program as a root space to which recreational programs are grafted. Emphasis will be placed on high levels of adaptability and overlapped efficiencies. However, each program should function fully and be enhanced by the proximity of the other.

Site
Explorations of the region between 2nd Avenue and Whitney Avenue west of A Avenue extending through the mudflats.

going rogue  [goh-ing rohg]  
-idiom

1. striking out on one’s own, exerting rugged independence.
2. telling a second (contradictory) story in the body of the first.
3. going “off message” thereby exposing the inner workings of the message itself.