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## **Landscape Architecture as Bridge Between People, Knowledge, and Place**

**The context of the void:** The human facility to engineer and erect literal bridges has apexed; immaterial bridge building is the necessary next step. A new, landscape based ethic of bridge building is not object driven but rather strives to form relational connections across cultural and biological communities. Western modes of habitat creation are derived not from dependency on landbases but rather are acts of occupation where systems are manipulated to manage for predictable outcomes. As our species crosses the time gap into the Anthropocene there are few corollaries to guide us in how we might live and plan for tomorrow.

**Identifying the void:** Pre-colonial cultures derived their ethics and organization from dependent relationships with their landbase. While the value of local experience has been acknowledged, current institutional frameworks continue to separate people, knowledge, and place. Looking to the formative work of MangroveWatch in northern Australia our paper examines how the process of knowledge creation demands new orders of relationship between western approaches to science and indigenous community knowledges of process and place.

**Filling the void:** Relationships are malleable and shifting, unpredictable and delighting. The failure to prioritize relations in our design processes is how we are getting it wrong. We speculate, as designers will, on the facility of landscape architects to be the bridge in a new model of training and practice. The goal of connecting investigative sciences, community needs and values, and institutional capacities to facilitate change is the only tenable response to the challenges of our eponymous epoch. Current frameworks misidentify professionalism as the bridging mechanism necessary to connect knowledge with needs. We propose a model to fill this void. We explore a structure of learning and practicing in place, facilitating the flow of information between communities in the effort to respond to need. This has always been landscape architecture.