In partnership with the Aquarium of the Pacific, Designmatters, Art Center’s social impact department, facilitated a transdisciplinary studio project led by the Product Design Department that conceived a system of strategies and public education tools to respond to the challenge of sea level rise throughout Southern California’s coastal communities.

Working in teams, students researched the topic of sea level rise and its relationship to climate change and other socio-economic factors, from a global, national and local perspective, basing their design explorations on rigorous scientific data. The results are four distinct proposals that run the gamut from products to exhibitions to advocacy campaign strategies. All aspire to communicate in an accessible and memorable way the urgent need to mitigate and adapt to our rising seas.

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Jerry R. Schubel, Ph.D.
President and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific

In the diagram, the student proposals, ranging from products to exhibitions to advocacy campaign strategies, are represented as layers on top of the foundation of scientific data. Each proposal aims to communicate the urgent need to mitigate and adapt to rising seas in an accessible and memorable way, reflecting the transdisciplinary approach of the project.
Designing appropriate strategies to respond to the challenge of sea level rise was the focus of Project Coastal Crisis, a transdisciplinary project embedded in the curriculum of “Design for Sustainability,” a studio of Art Center’s Product Design Department.

Students in Project Coastal Crisis were challenged to translate urgent scientific data on sea level rise and coastal resiliency into readily-accessible public awareness communications and educational tools.

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The Aquarium’s work in the arena of marine science issues calls for the public and recognizing design as an essential tool to be used effectively to engage and educate the public in collaboration that developed the Rebuild Project. Designmatters, and Art Center, was formed to foster the combination of marine science and design.

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Sustainable Design Strategies for Coastal Resilience: Designmatters Studio at Art Center College of Design

Karen Hofmann, Chair
Fridolin Beisert, Faculty Director and Associate Professor
Michelle Koza, Instructor
Heidrun Mumper-Drumm, Director, Sustainability Initiatives, and Associate Professor

Mariana Amatullo, Vice President
Elisa Ruffino, Director

German Aguirre, Celeste Byers, Jennifer Choy, Sujin Hwang, Chiao Ho, David Kim, Yan Kramsky, Jessica Lee, Wooyong Lee, Dana Lo, Mariana Prieto, Derrick Tan

Special Thanks to Jerry and Margaret Schubel at the Aquarium of the Pacific and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
Coastal Sustainable Design Strategies for Resiliency

for The Aquarium of the Pacific Studio at Art Center College of Design

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SUSTAINABLE DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE
Art Center College of Design Team
PRODUCT DESIGN DEPARTMENT
Karen Hofmann, Chair
Fridolin Beisert, Faculty Director and Associate Professor
Michelle Koza, Instructor
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The leading work of the Aquarium in making ocean issues come alive for the public—and recognizing design as an essential contributor in that effort—became the point of entry for this educational collaboration that developed over the course of the spring 2011 academic term and was supported in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Working in teams, students researched the topic of sea level rise and its relationship to climate change and other socio-economic factors, from a global, national and local perspective, basing their design explorations on rigorous scientific data. The results are four distinct proposals that run the gamut from products to exhibitions to advocacy campaign strategies. All aspire to communicate in an accessible and memorable way the urgent need to mitigate and adapt to our rising seas.

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achieving success, society as a whole is beginning to recognize the importance of smart design in corporations and organizations increasingly recognizing that responsibility is part of commercial viability. As good design is about combining functionality, aesthetics, and social responsibility, it becomes an integral part of the commitment to socially responsible design.

Art Center’s social change agenda is embodied by our students:

- Our Rising Seas: Chiao Ho, Yan Kramsky, Mariana Prieto
- Make a Difference: Jennifer Choy, Dana Lo, David Kim
- Carbon Detox: German Aguirre, Derrick Tan, Jessica Lee
- Think Sink: Celeste Byers, Sujin Hwang, Wooyong Lee

These exhibits were created to be a lighthearted and fun experience for children, and to push forward the primary message that children can take to their communities living near the shore. The exhibit includes an interactive exhibit designed to educate children adaptation strategies for the future, and participants can take a shower to visualize the future rise. Telescopes show what at-risk cities—Long Beach, for example, sliding “wave-like” panels and an interactive wall reveal facts and information, like in the future, and participants can take a shower to visualize the future rise. Telescopes show what at-risk cities—Long Beach, for example, sliding “wave-like” panels and an interactive wall reveal facts and information, like in the future, and participants can take a shower to visualize the future rise. Telescopes show what at-risk cities—Long Beach, for example, sliding “wave-like” panels and an interactive wall reveal facts and information, like in the future, and participants can take a shower to visualize the future rise. Telescopes show what at-risk cities—Long Beach, for example, sliding “wave-like” panels and an interactive wall reveal facts and information, like in the future, and participants can take a shower to visualize the future rise. Telescopes show what at-risk cities—Long Beach, for example, sliding “wave-like” panels and an interactive wall reveal facts and information.

Our Rising Seas is an interactive exhibit that educates young people about the importance of designing for the future and the responsibilities that come with it. The exhibit is designed to be engaging and interactive, offering children a chance to learn about the effects of sea level rise and what they can do to help. It includes a series of stations that allow children to experience the effects of rising waters, such as a game of hopscotch that teaches about sea level rise, and a “greenhouse gas” wall that reveals facts and information about the impact of emissions on the environment.

Make a Difference is an awareness campaign and pop-up exhibit featuring custom-designed art pieces that encourage dialogue and education while visitors eat and relax in one of the Aquarium’s dining areas. The campaign aims to push the reality that our future is at stake and that everyone has a role to play in addressing the challenges of climate change and sea level rise. It features fun-to-achieve action steps children can take every day.

Carbon Detox is an interactive game that aims to educate visitors about the importance of sustainable agriculture and the benefits of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture. Visitors can take part in a pinball game meant to illustrate the sustainability and benefits of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture. Players aim a ball, which represents a nutrient, toward the “sustainable” side of the game board—a difficult task that requires strategic thinking and decision-making. The rewards of the game are numerous, including reduced fertilizer and insecticide use, as well as increased yields and biodiversity.

Think Sink is an educational campaign that raises awareness about the impacts of sea level rise and wildlife adaptation. It features a series of clothing items, including Sea Level Socks and Sea Level Shirts, that are designed to be visible on the body; the Sea Level Rise Cup and Panties with “rising wave” designs of various levels are meant to be visible on the body. The goal of the Think Sink campaign is to raise awareness about sea level rise and its impacts on wildlife, and to encourage people to take action to protect the environment.

The Aquarium of the Pacific, located in Long Beach, California, is the nation’s largest oceanarium and one of the nation’s most-visited aquariums. It is a place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated, and where scientific education and conservation efforts are integrated. The Aquarium of the Pacific is dedicated to inspiring individuals and families to appreciate and understand the ocean’s role in the health of our planet. Its mission is to advance ocean literacy, conservation, and citizen engagement through education, research, and the arts. For more information, visit www.aquarium.org.
A student project at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, offers an innovative approach to raising awareness about climate change and sea level rise, as well as encouraging sustainable practices. The project, titled “Our Rising Seas,” is a collaborative effort between Designmatters students and the Think Sink team, which is dedicated to educating the public about the impact of storm surge and sea level rise on coastal communities, particularly those living near the shore.

The project features a variety of interactive exhibits and educational tools designed to engage visitors of all ages. Among these is a futuristic United States map that serves as an awareness campaign and pop-up exhibit featuring an interactive display involving a handcrafted pinball game meant to illustrate the sustainability and benefits of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture. This system aims to replace agricultural areas lost to sea level rise by developing healthy marine ecosystems and a sustainable form of food production. The game is a lighthearted and fun experience that small actions can—and do—make a difference. For example, players can launch a ball, representing “nutrients,” toward the “sustainable” side of the game board—a difficult side to fill. The nutrient balls then tumble through multiple “eco-systems,” which cycle the “nutrients” for one, fish-specific “eco-system,” with increasing build up of “toxins.” Nutrient balls traveling through the one-way flow of “nutrients” and chemicals through agricultural areas lost to sea level rise.

Another component of the exhibit is a tabletop version of a carbon detox game. This game serves as an educational tool for families and students to learn about the connection between unsustainable systems and our environment. In this game, players are encouraged to physically add land back to the map, thereby metaphorically taking action to mitigate sea level rise. The table features a futuristic United States map, with error lights as the balls collect and build up on the one-way flow of “nutrients.” Players aim it toward the “sustainable” side of the game board with bells and lights that signal that sustainable fish farming is represented by non-toxic, biological cycle of food production. Conversely, unsustainable systems represented by toxic fish farming produce waste in addition to other negative effects.

The goal of the Think Sink campaign is to raise awareness among coastal communities about the impacts of storm surge and sea level rise and encourage the development of sustainable solutions. The campaign aims to send a letter to local legislators, petitioning for support of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture. Benefits of this system include reduced mitigation and adaptation costs, a sustainable form of food production, reduced environmental impacts, and preservation of coastal ecosystems. The campaign also raises awareness with a provocative array of clothing and everyday products that encourage people to visit aquariums and learn more about sustainable practices. The Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach, California, offers an interactive environment where diverse cultures and the arts are explored by scientists, policy-makers, and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions.
Achieving success in society as a whole is beginning with a broad social innovation and humanitarian agenda for positive change. Good design is about combining functionality, aesthetic value and business acumen that weave together. Product Design students at Art Center learn that a commitment to socially responsible design offers a rigorous and transdisciplinary curriculum, a faculty of practicing artists and designers who are experts in their fields, strong ties to industry, and a culture to send to local legislators. The campus-based aquarium, the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California, is the fourth most visited aquarium in the nation. It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and a place where important topics concerning the relationships of humans with our planet are explored by scientists, policy-makers, and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions. www.aquariumofpacific.org

Sustainable Aquaculture
Jennifer Choy, Dana Lo, David Kim

A new system for fish farming that encourages biodiversity and a sustainable form of food production to replace unsustainable systems. Benefits of this system include reduced waste of nutrients and energy, incorporation of waste products from businesses and homes as potential feedstock for the fish, and an economic boost to coastal communities that might otherwise be dependent on unsustainable systems. The system is designed to be an adaptable solution to meet the needs of a diverse range of geographical and social conditions.

Carbon Detox
German Aguirre, Derrick Tan, Jessica Lee

An interactive exhibit that encourages dialogue while visitors eat and relax. The menu will be impacted by sea level rise—it’s not if, but when. Beyond public education, a new awareness campaign and pop-up exhibit featuring a lighthearted and fun experience for children, and to push forward the primary message. All concepts were conceived to be economically sustainable and to mitigate sea level rise. Magnetic sand underneath the tabletop is reactive to magnetic salt and pepper shakers, allowing users to physically add land back when it is needed. The system is designed to be a global solution to the challenges of sea level rise, while challenging the user to think critically about their contributions.

Think Sink
Celeste Byers, Sujin Hwang, Wooyong Lee

An awareness campaign and pop-up exhibit that encourages discussion and dialogue while visitors eat and relax. The clothing and product lines developed around the concept of sea level rise were meant to be visible on the body; the Sea Level Rise Bikini, which can be inflated and used in a sea level rise mitigation and adaptation. Our Rising Seas

An awareness campaign and pop-up exhibit that encourages discussion and dialogue while visitors eat and relax. The clothing and product lines developed around the concept of sea level rise were meant to be visible on the body; the Sea Level Rise Bikini, which can be inflated and used in a sea level rise mitigation and adaptation.
Our Rising Seas

By Chiao Ho, Yan Kramsky, Mariana Prieto

Our Rising Seas is an interactive exhibit that encourages visitors to take action on sea level rise.

Our Rising Seas is an interactive exhibit that encourages visitors to take action on sea level rise. It features a futuristic United States map that is reactive to magnetic salt and pepper underneath. Magnetic sand underneath the map changes colors, representing areas at risk. Visitors manipulate the map, thereby metaphorically taking action to mitigate sea level rise. The table features a futuristic United States map, customized with missing key pieces of the coast as a result of sea level rise. The table is placed in the high-traffic café area, intended to spark education and dialogue while visitors eat and relax.

Carbon Detox

By Celeste Byers, Sujin Hwang, Wooyong Lee

Carbon Detox is an awareness campaign and pop-up exhibit featuring carbon capture and mitigation and adaptation strategies. The exhibit is designed to feature climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, while giving them the tools to test to learn how to prevent wasting water. A game of hopscotch teaches about sea level rise, and they are also most likely to create life-long advocates. For children, and to push forward the primary message is an interactive exhibit that encourages dialogue and to send to local legislators. Petitions supporting integrated multi-trophic aquaculture are a result of sea level rise. Magnetic sand underneath the tabletop is reactive to magnetic salt and pepper underneath the map, as a space to catalyze a grassroots movement around climate change. Petitions supporting integrated multi-trophic aquaculture are a result of sea level rise. Magnetic sand underneath the tabletop is reactive to magnetic salt and pepper underneath the map, as a space to catalyze a grassroots movement around climate change. Petitions supporting integrated multi-trophic aquaculture are a result of sea level rise. Magnetic sand underneath the tabletop is reactive to magnetic salt and pepper underneath the map, as a space to catalyze a grassroots movement around climate change.
recognize the importance of smart design in corporations and organizations increasingly. As responsibility is part of commercial viability. As relevance and visual appeal—and that social good design is about combining functionality, Product Design students at Art Center learn that commitment to socially responsible design.

www.artcenter.edu/designmatters
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global scales, while giving them the tools to improve lives. The marketplace is demand-experts in their fields, strong ties to industry, and a rigorous and transdisciplinary curriculum, Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, A leader in art and design education for 80 years, ABOUT ART CENTER

Our Rising Seas is an interactive installation that provokes dialog among visitors about the relationship between the health of our oceans and the impact of sea-level rise on our communities. A hypothetical coastal city, McClintock, is presented as a space to catalyze a grassroots movement around critical issues. The campaign aims to push the reality that our future takes a deliberately fun and light-hearted approach, encouraging dialogue about sea-level rise among Aquarium visitors in San Francisco, New York and Atlanta—might look in the high-traffic café area—is intended to spark discussion strategies, while an interactive table, placed that small actions can—and do—make a difference. For example, sliding “wave-like” panels and an interactive exhibit that encourages dialogue about multi-trophic aquaculture are represented as the “nutrients” travel downstream systems. The rewards of this system include reduced agricultural areas lost to sea level rise.
corporations and organizations increasingly recognize that responsibility is part of commercial viability. As a result, concern for aesthetic value and visual appeal—and that social commitment to socially responsible design—is part of a broader agenda for positive change. That weaving aesthetic value and business acumen in collaborative projects across the College’s curricula is one of the Art Center’s social change agenda is embodied by—I Commit to... A leader in art and design education for 80 years, our vision is that the Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach, California, is the fourth most visited aquarium in the nation. Beyond its world-class animal exhibits, offers a rigorous and transdisciplinary curriculum, a faculty of practicing artists and designers who are experts in their fields, strong ties to industry, and a culture to send to local legislators.

ABOUT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
The Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach, California, offers a unique educational opportunity, a myriad of unique educational programs, and a world-class exhibit of marine life. It is a community partner that is committed to educating the public about sustainability and conservation. We believe that through education and research, we can help protect the marine environment and inspire action. We are dedicated to providing a place where diverse cultures and the arts are valued and celebrated. Our mission is to create a world where people and the oceans thrive. We are committed to increasing knowledge and appreciation of the ocean and its inhabitants. We will encourage action that promotes the sustainability and health of our oceans. We will work to ensure that our oceans are protected for future generations. We will use our resources and expertise to support research and conservation efforts. We will work to ensure that our oceans are protected for future generations. We will use our resources and expertise to support research and conservation efforts.

ABOUT ART CENTER
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Carbon Detox
Carbon Detox is a pinball game designed to reinforce the concept of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) as a sustainable form of food production. The game was developed by Aquateam students: German Aguirre, Derrick Tan, and Jessica Lee. The game features two sides of the board: the “sustainable” and the “unsustainable.” Players control a “nutrient” ball that travels through various eco-systems, including agricultural and aquaculture areas. The goal is to help the “nutrient” ball reach the “sustainable” side of the board by choosing sustainable options, such as planting trees, reducing waste, and using renewable energy. The pinball game was designed to reinforce these ideas and encourage players to make sustainable choices in their daily lives.

Sustainable Aquaculture
Sustainable Aquaculture is a team project that developed a concept for an interactive exhibit that would demonstrate the benefits of IMTA. The concept was inspired by the work of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which highlighted the potential impact of rising sea levels on coastal communities. The team’s goal was to create an exhibit that would engage visitors and encourage them to think critically about the issue of sea level rise.

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Designing appropriate strategies to respond to the challenge of sea level rise was the focus of Project Coastal Crisis, a transdisciplinary project embedded in the curriculum of “Design for Sustainability,” a studio of Art Center’s Product Design Department. Students in Project Coastal Crisis were challenged to translate urgent scientific data on sea level rise and coastal resiliency into readily-accessible public awareness communications and educational tools.

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