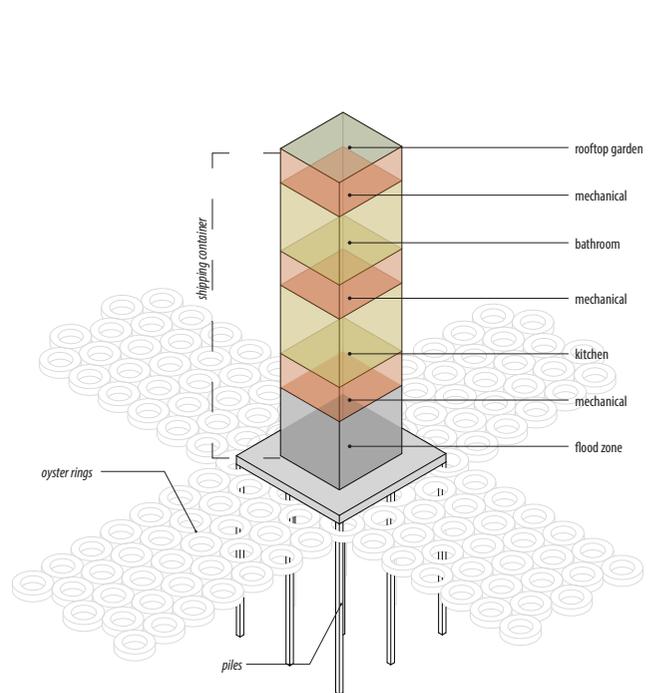
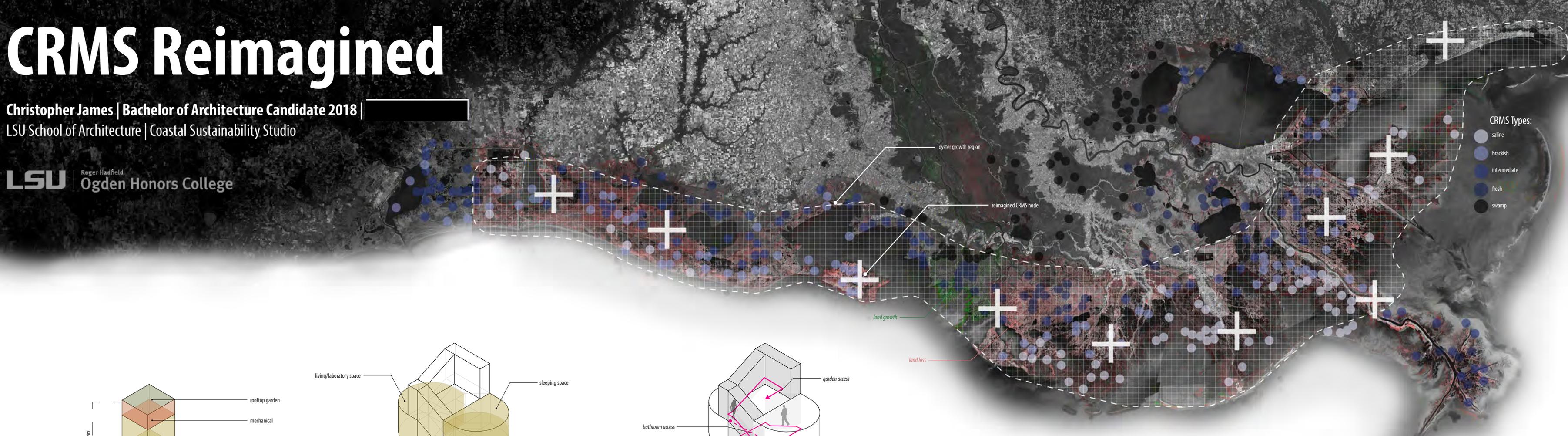


CRMS Reimagined

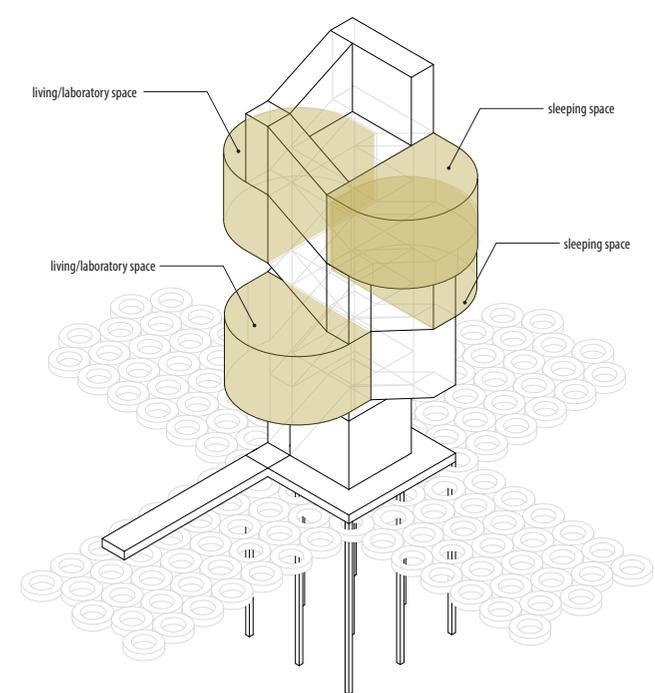
Christopher James | Bachelor of Architecture Candidate 2018 |

LSU School of Architecture | Coastal Sustainability Studio

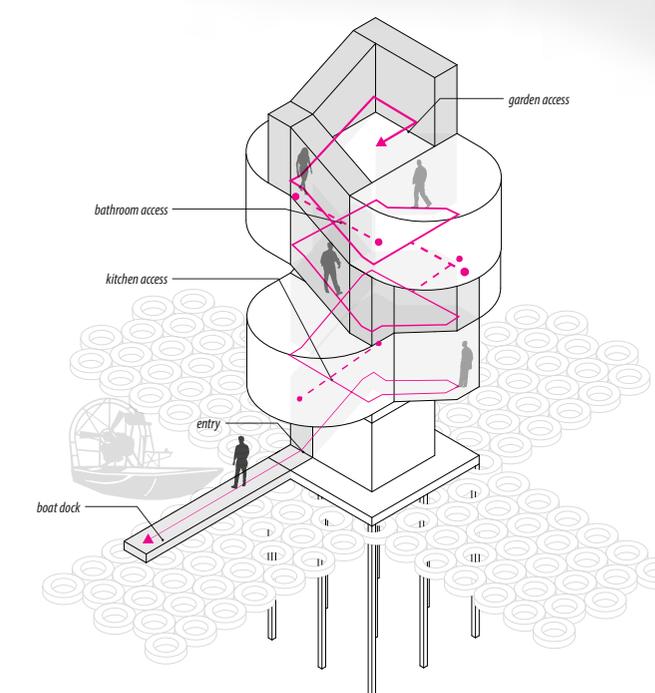
LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College



core program distribution



shell program distribution



circulation

The Coastwide Reference Monitoring System, or CRMS, is a network of 390 data collection points throughout the Louisiana coast that provide vital information about the current state of this highly dynamic environment. Originally, the monitoring system was implemented to track the impacts of the coastal protection and restoration projects appropriated by the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, or CWPPRA. Many of these projects are a part of Louisiana's Coastal Masterplan of 2012 which include structural protection, bank stabilization, oyster barrier reefs, ridge restoration, shoreline protection, barrier island restoration, marsh creation, channel realignment, sediment diversion and hydrologic restoration. The CRMS points' role in this masterplan is to collect the quantifiable data necessary to "monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of CWPPRA projects at the project, region, and coastwide levels."

Currently, each CRMS site is simply a wooden boardwalk surrounded by various instruments for continuous and discrete data collection. Although most of the data from these instruments is computerized, scientists are still responsible for physically downloading the data on site and eventually uploading it to the CRMS database, accessible on <http://www.lacost.gov/crms>. In addition, discrete measurements are taken with each site visit using tools the scientist brings with them, and periodic maintenance is performed on the electronic equipment. True to the CRMS's purpose, these site visits also give the scientist an opportunity to observe the qualitative and ephemeral characteristics of the site, giving insight to the specific CWPPRA project's role within the Louisiana coastal environment.

Clearly, human interaction with CRMS is inevitable if not vital to the system's success, but its current architecture is not conducive to that relationship. The boardwalk, completely exposed to the elements and too small for comfortable habitation limits the CRMS's potential to be an impetus for coastal research, providing a livable space with an intimate relationship to the very thing being researched. This project proposes a reimagined CRMS site, with an architecture that creates limitless opportunities for the advancement of the coastal and environmental sciences as well as the role human habitation can play in coastal protection and restoration efforts.