

Imagining Risk and Resilience

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In estuarial cities of the global North, discourses of climate risk have authorized new modes of intervention in urban planning, real estate development, and architecture that mediate new forms of governance and economic restructuring. This paper examines the industry of cultural and knowledge workers who make uncertainty manageable, marketable, and politically actionable by imagining climate risk. Using visual and textual evidence focusing on London and New York, the paper shows how a range of actors, from filmmakers and novelists to investors, insurers, developers, planners, visualization consultants, and architects shape governance and the market for design services through the ways they imagine risk exposure and mitigation around these low-lying cities. By unpacking the ways that popular media as well as specialized professional sectors imagine and address risk, I show how the discourse and practice of resilient design leverages risk into opportunity.

Biography:

Jonathan Massey (jmassey@cca.edu) directs the architecture division at California College of the Arts. Author of *Crystal and Arabesque* (2009), co-author of *Governing by Design* (2012), and a founder of the Aggregate Architectural History Collaborative, he taught previously at Syracuse University, where he served as Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence and chaired the B.Arch program and the University Senate.