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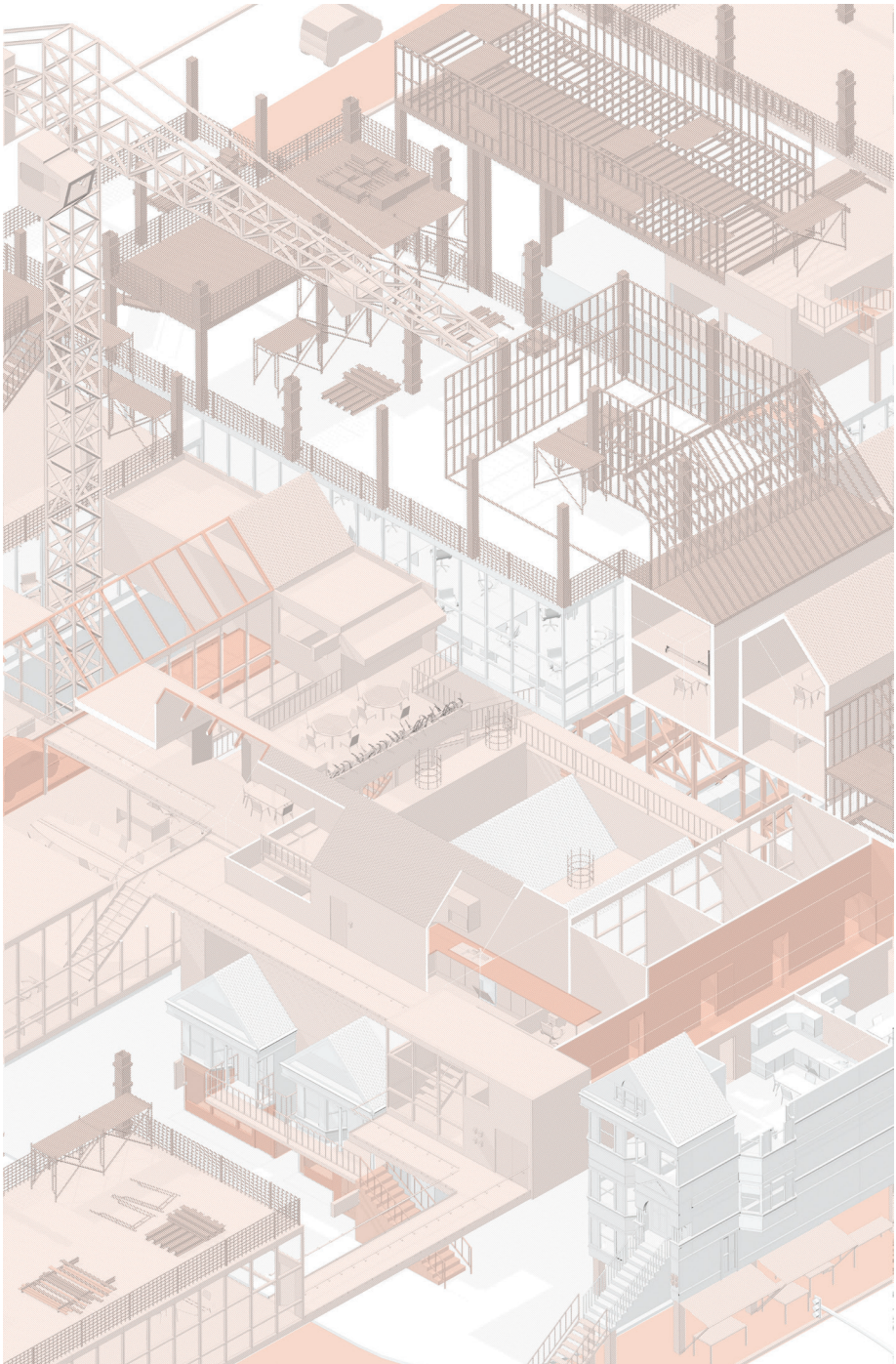
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Overlap/Succesion/Sedimentation

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What is the role of expertise when architectural additions are ad hoc, opportunistic and predicated on what sits below? When development is piecemeal and reliant on the existing built environment for material and form? How do architects negotiate a newfound sense of nostalgia prompted by impending landscape change?

Overlap provides a critical lens to understand ongoing development in Oakland. Our theoretical proposal lies on a site just below Lake Merritt. The project will span the next 100 years, anticipating a sea level rise of two meters, which will drastically changing the landscape while responding to needs for increased density. Victorian homes, big-box retailers, curtain wall clad office buildings and small commercial spaces form the fabric of the city, but over time as opportunity allows or necessity arises these programs and their traditional spaces begin to drift, to overlap. Redevelopment and reuse allow conversions from house to small retail space, or commercial lobby to bedroom. A company server farm sinks heat into a public swimming pool, the concrete floor of a residence extends through a party wall to become an office desk, and a pitched roof form is clad in shingles over an attic, but glazed as a skylight where it crosses commercial space. Circulation is often shared, and moments of intense experiential overlap exist where travel from what's left of the ground to the current rooftop is possible. The path up highlights the new mixed-use urban life of a sedimentary city. Original Victorian homes inundated by the sea are used as formwork for cast infrastructure to support what lies above. Their imprint becomes a functional monument where the past is re-encountered as foundation.

Urban succession questions what should remain in a changing landscape. What can be reinterpreted and reused or simply remembered. How does programmatic overlap redefine familiar typologies and what is the role of design in this environment? Here the expert becomes one who thinks contextually, recognizing opportunities and rejecting a cleared site, instead adapting and reinterpreting it.

