

SHIFT

Newfoundland's South

relocation
 emigration
 regeneration
 repair
 energy

Losing too is still ours, and forgetting still takes shape in the kingdom of transformation when something's let go of, it circles; and though we are rarely the centre of the circle, it draws around us its unbroken and marvellous curve.
 — Rilke

In tracing the course of the Trans Canada Highway, the far eastern end terminates in the province of Newfoundland. The island is connected by ferry to the rest of the country. Newfoundland's cultural, political and economical existence is a phenomenon that has been affecting the physiology of the province for its entire lifetime. This province's birth in Confederation initiated the acceleration of the modernisation of this place. A government program to resettle edge-dwelling Newfoundlanders to larger urban centres shifted and pushed populations to focus on resources inland. People transferred their families, their cultures and floated their houses from places with 'no great future' to more centralised and accessible areas. Many towns had been forgotten; many names have been erased.

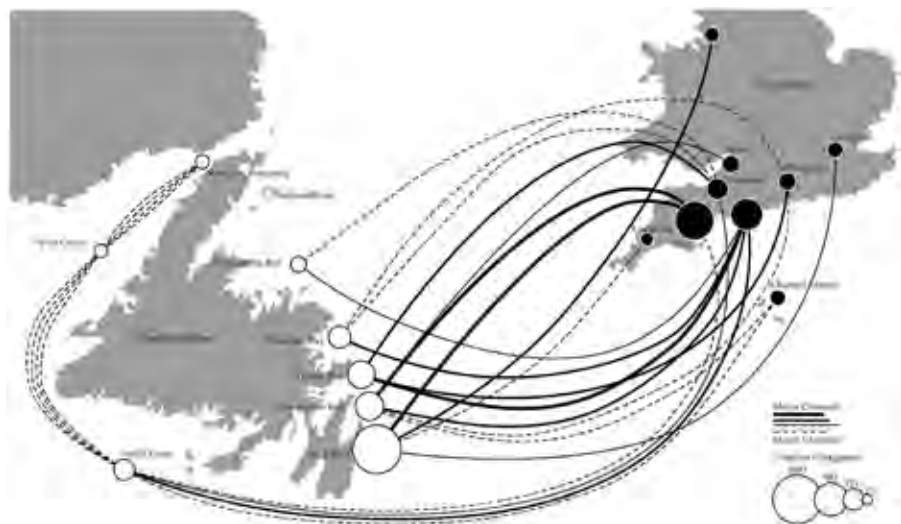
Ode to Newfoundland by Sir Cavendish Boyle:

'Though they are anthem-like, there is something indefinably sad about the words, resigned, regretful, as if Boyle imagined himself looking back from a time when Newfoundland had ceased to be. It is the sort of song you might write about a place as you were leaving it by boat, watching it slowly fade from view, a place you believed you would never see again. He was governor of Newfoundland for only a few years, so he must have written it in the knowledge that he was soon to leave.'

— Wayne Johnston. *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams.*

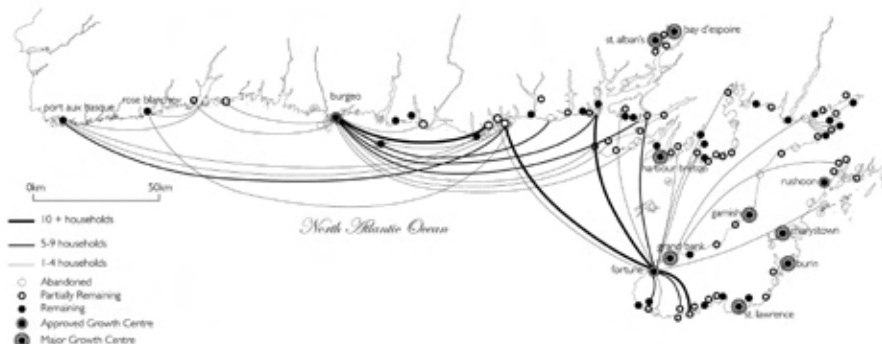
The history of settlement on the island and the tensions between the French and the British encompass themes of settling, destruction, and resettling again. This initiates the continual themes of impermanence and erasure throughout the island.

From 1954 until 1975 over 20,000 inhabitants of the province of Newfoundland were resettled with Government grants. This proved to be socially detrimental, and some think economically harmful.



marianna de cola

channels of emigration





Transporting houses, resettlement 1954-1975



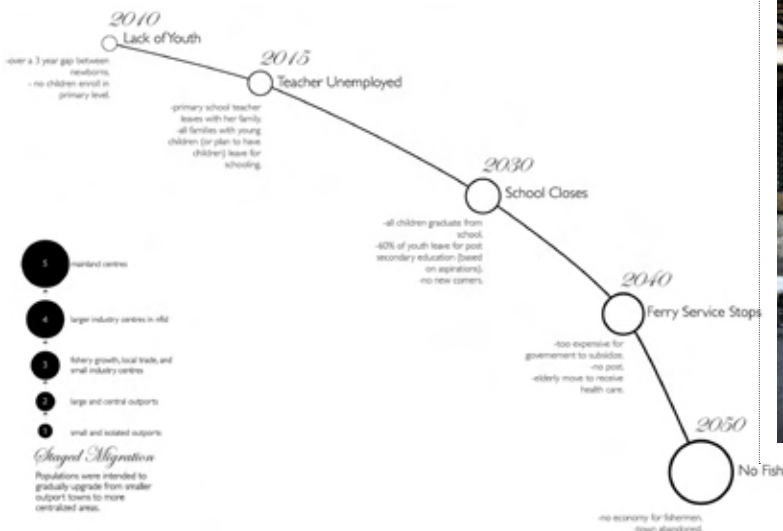
Maritime History Archive [http://www.mun.ca/mha/resettlement/moving_house_1.php]

François, an Outport

The diagram below is based on the population of François in 2010, how many children are in school, how many plan to stay in François and the ages of the present community.

The school groups four grades together for grades 1 - 12, thus there are only three teachers actively teaching. The youngest child born in the community was five years younger than the second youngest child, therefore, the younger-level teacher will soon be unemployed. The demise of the school will spark the demise of the community. Looking at age in general, the points at which healthcare will be an issue becomes apparent.

The end of the fishing economy by 2050 is in Clover, C. *The End of the Line: how overfishing is changing the world and what we eat.* London: Ebury, 2004.



In Cod We Trust[ed]

Since the joining of Canada in Confederation and the progressive technologies of modernism, the fishing industry had spiraled out of control and nearly exhausted the fish stocks. This eventually led to the Cod Moratorium in 1992. Since then, populations never recovered.

Isle Aux Morts: Death of the Fishery

Isle Aux Morts directly translates into Island of the Dead. The fish freezing plant within this community closed within the last decade.



marianna de cola



Grand Bruit: Unsettled

In July of 2010, the community members of Grand Bruit experienced the modern version of resettlement. The moving process took months while assets were loaded, one by one, onto the ferry to their new homes. I've been to this place and documented this process. I've been to this place that no longer is.



marianna de cola



Topography

The topography of the Southern coast of Newfoundland is astonishing. The shoreline varies from piercingly steep inlets and harbours to rocks peeking above the surface of the ocean. The inability to connect this portion of the island is because of this very topography. Its uneven and dramatic heights and the dense solidity of the granite make it difficult to develop.



Grand Bruit Harbour - seasonally populated

Bathymetry

The bathymetry is as astounding as the mirrored topography. The depth of the ocean and its steepness allows for ideal harbours as a perfect threshold to the ocean and fish. The dynamic floor presents an ideal location for renewal. The site is Atlantic's floor.

Wave

The ebb and flow of the sea is so powerful to go unnoticed. The most energetic waves are between 30 degrees and 60 degrees latitude.

— Wave Energy Conversion: Volume 6. p1

Intervention

To prevent slipping, a knot depends on friction, and to provide friction, there must be pressure of some sort. This pressure and the place within the knot where it occurs is called the nip. The security of a knot seems to depend solely on its nip.

— The Ashley Book of Knots

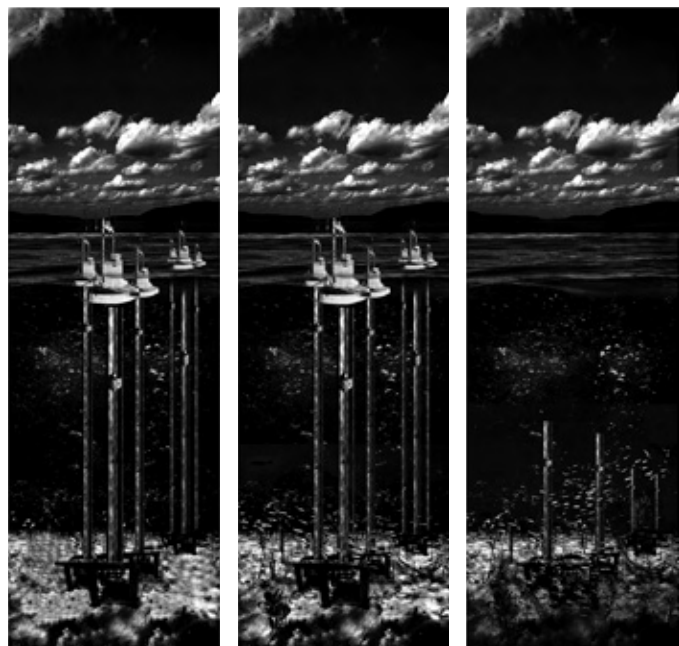
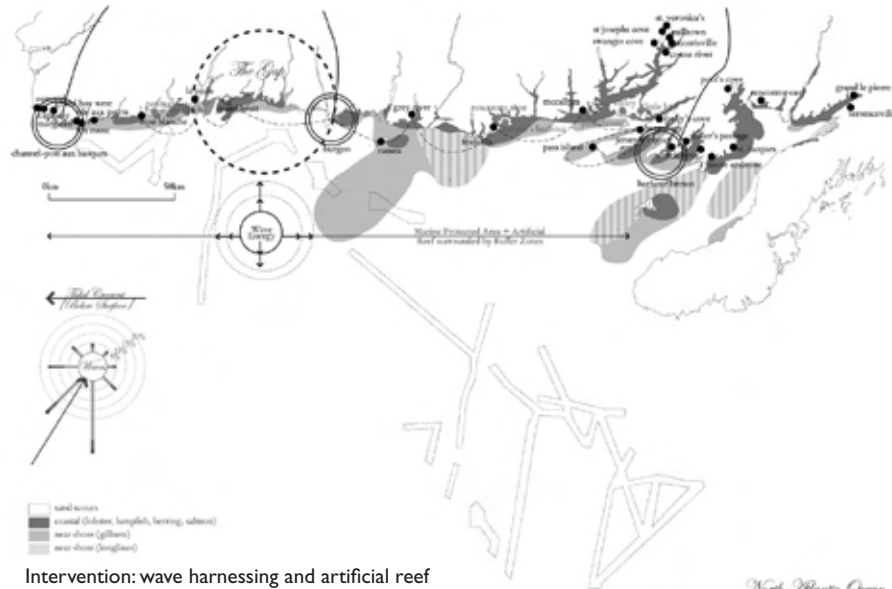
Offshore Grand Bruit is the starting point. The design takes Newfoundland's infrastructure, history and resources that have dominated the collective psyche over the last 600 years and converts them into articles that can be used in a positive transformation of the land/waterscape to prompt restoration of the southern coast.

Program/Site/Evolution

The southern coast of Newfoundland suffers from a detrimental decline in population as well as in the source of its economy.

The intervention is a shifting wave harness system (to offset the cost of the current diesel energy system) coupled with a foundation that works to revitalise the benthic surface of the Atlantic Ocean. This artificial reef will help reconstruct the ocean floor that has been scoured by commercial dragging trawlers in search of cod. The wave energy system will be strategically located where populations gather and where energy is in demand. Simultaneously, the damaged benthic surface areas will be a factor in deployment. The migration of Newfoundlanders is based on fishing season and economy, both informing a dynamic system of intervention. When the system is needed elsewhere it can be dismantled from its nutrient-filled foundations and pulled to the area in demand. It shifts, multiplies and hibernates depending on the needs of the populations and aquatic ecosystem.

The regenerative artifact is conceptually sectionally split into two parts. The upper portion relates to the energy needs of the population on land. The foundations will respond to the need to regenerate the destroyed benthic surface of the ocean. The form responds to the direction of waves and current to optimise wave harnessing and nutrient collection. //



marianna de cola