

GEOFUTURES STUDENTS SELECTED FOR WT SMARTCITY AWARD

Posted by [Main Editor](#) on Monday, March 24, 2014 · [Leave a Comment](#)



Former students Bing Bai, Edgar Garcia, and Jessica Hernandez's final project in the Geofutures program, "**Biotic City**" (Spring, 2013), has been selected for the WT SmartCity Award and will be exhibited in Milan, Italy during Milan Design Week in the summer of 2014.

[WT SmartCity Award.](#)

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"This was a totally different experience from what I had previously in my country. The variety of things that I learned in this short period of one year was just unbelievable, from the theory courses to the computational studies and the design process. All of it was unique and it was definitely a turning point in my view of architecture." **Sahar Mihandoust** (MARCH II, 2013)

"The Geofutures program is an extremely diverse and interesting program led by very talented and knowledgeable faculty members. It helped me get acquainted with fields and topics in architecture that I never got to explore during my previous studies. I was able to see the growth in me not only as an architect but as a thinker in the field as well." **Bhawya Joshi** (MARCH II, 2013)

“There are several crucial skills for success: ambition, resourcefulness, communication, etc. We all work on honing and improving these skills so that we’re able to reach our goals and achieve our dreams, and in order to do so we must have access to knowledge. The Geofutures graduate program provided me with that knowledge, but more importantly, it challenged me to identify its relevance for the disciplines of architecture, landscape, and urbanism in the 21st century. It was an amazing experience and I would enthusiastically recommend Geofutures to any prospective students interested in a challenging yet highly rewarding year of graduate study.” **Jessica Hernandez** (MArch II, 2013)

“The program is a very excellent one. It is short in terms of time period, but it is so well organized that not a single moment is wasted. The time is utilized in the best way possible and for the benefit of the students.” **Tazy Momtaz** (MArch II, 2013)

“As a Latin American architect, I was searching for high quality programs in New York City when I discovered the Geofutures MArch II program. It became the most attractive option for me, not only because it offered subjects of interest but also because of the seriousness and quality of the professors that make up the program, which even surpassed my personal and professional expectations. I enjoyed every class as well as the intensity, discipline, and responsibility of each professor.” **Edgar Garcia** (MArch II, 2013)

“Being part of the Geofutures program was a great experience for me. Not only did it provide me with an opportunity to enrich my professional skills, but the diversity and intensity of the program also challenged me to think about much larger disciplinary questions, such as the future of architecture and urban design. Very different from what I learned as a student of architecture in China, the Geofutures program encouraged me to think outside the box and explore other fields of knowledge for new ideas and inspiration. I believe it is every architect’s dream to be part of a creative revolution and this program definitely caters to those students interested in futuristic and visionary design.” **Sisi Qian** (MArch II, 2013)

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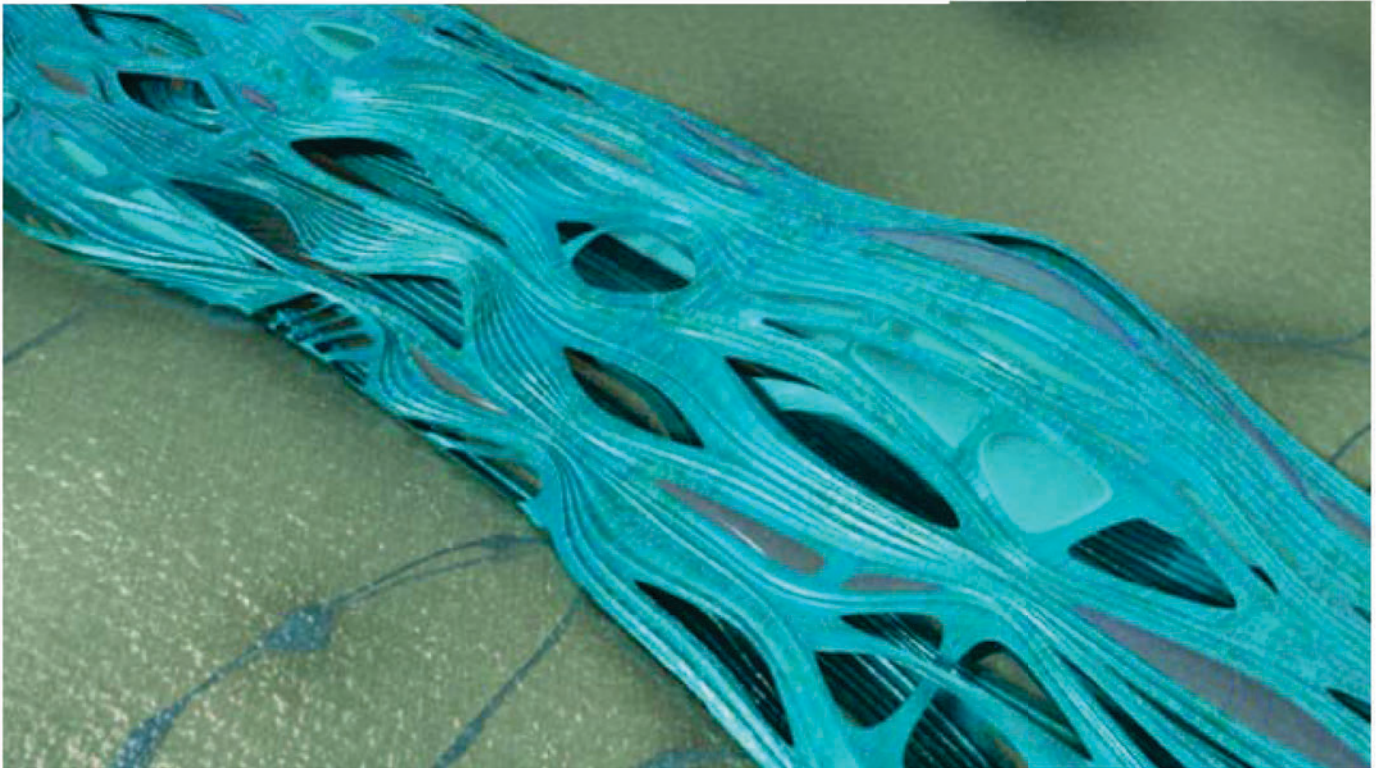
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BING BAI – EDGAR GARCIA – JESSICA HERNANDEZ

Posted by [perry3](#) on Sunday, June 9, 2013 · [Leave a Comment](#)

Spring 2013:

BIOTIC CITY



Biotic City, aerial rendering.

Proposal by Bing Bai, Edgar Garcia, and Jessica Hernandez (Spring, 2013)



This design proposal references two twentieth century *urban futurism* precedents, Le Corbusier's *Plan Obus for Algiers* (1933) and Paolo Soleri's *Novanoah* (1969), and incorporates aspects of each while simultaneously proposing something entirely new; a large-scale, floating linear structure comprised of biodegradable materials harvested from the site itself.

Located in the Marine National Monument off the coast of Hawaii, an archipelago of remote islands which support a fragile ecology of marine wildlife, Biotic City aspires to bridge the indigenous practices of pre-industrial civilizations with the technological advancements of the industrial age. The project proposes a new post-industrial urbanism that forges intimate and ultimately reciprocal relationships with the natural environment, its complex climates and ecologies, while simultaneously engaging the needs and desires of human activity, achieving both through the application of new advancements in building technology and material science. In terms of programming, Biotic City proposes a remote form of research urbanism, a large-scale scientific complex which supports scientific observation as it relates to complex marine ecologies.