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Illustrations

- 14** Sketch by Jane Wolff
26 Photo by Joel Valabrega
40–45 Illustrations I–VI are part of a series of line drawings produced by Judith Albert for this issue of Pamphlet following a workshop she led for the elective course Delta Dialogues at the ETH Zurich in the spring of 2016. [original text translated from the German by Lara Mehling]
46 Photo by Ellen Braae
60 Photo by Anuradha Mathur
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First of all, I would like to thank Christophe Girot for embarking on what began as an experimental seminar and lecture series with us, and for sharing our enthusiasm to expand on his experience in designing in challenging water landscapes by critically engaging innovative methods and tools through dialogue.

I would also like to thank our guest lecturers and authors Anu Mathur and Jane Wolff, whose work I have long admired and whose ideas largely inspired the course, Ellen Braae for demonstrating new modes of combining historical and theoretical investigations with fieldwork, Catherine Mosbach for showing us how to engage the physical terrain in new and provocative ways, and Judith Albert and her collaborator Gery Hofer for testing the delta concept, in a figurative sense, at the scale of the human body.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the team from the TheoryLab, especially my colleagues Isabelle Fehlmann and Su Ahn, for the countless enriching conversations and incredible collaboration on Delta Dialogues—the seminar, lecture series, and finally this booklet. A special thanks also to Dunja Richter for her valuable input and Phil Urech for his assistance as a native French speaker.

LM

Anuradha Mathur, an architect and landscape architect, is Professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Pennsylvania. In collaboration with her partner Dilip da Cunha, she focuses her artistic and design expertise on cultural and ecological issues of amphibious terrains, including the Lower Mississippi, the Bangladesh Delta, the Mumbai Estuary, and most recently the Sundarbans in the Ganges Delta. She is co-author of *Mississippi Floods: Designing a Shifting Landscape* (2001), *Deccan Traverses: the Making of Bangalore's Terrain* (2006) and *Soak: Mumbai in an Estuary* (2009), and co-editor of *Design in the Terrain of Water* (2014).

Lara Mehling, born in Kassel, Germany, is a landscape architect from San Francisco. She joined the Chair of Prof. Christophe Girot at the ETH Zurich as a research associate for the TheoryLab in 2015 after receiving her Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She is editor of the publication series *Pamphlet* and since 2016 also serves as the director of the Master of Advanced Studies program in landscape architecture offered by the Institute of Landscape Architecture.

Catherine Mosbach, born in Paris, was educated as a landscape architect at the École Nationale Supérieure du Paysage in Versailles. In 1987, she both co-founded the landscape review *Pages Paysages* and began her own practice *mosbach paysagistes*. Her design of the Louvre Lens Museum Park won the L'Équerre d'argent Award in 2013 and a year later she received the Iconic Concept Award from the German Design Council at Munich for Phase Shift Park in Taichung. Mosbach was made as Officer of the French Legion of Honor by the President François Hollande in 2016 and is currently a visiting professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Jane Wolff is associate professor of landscape architecture at University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. She was educated as a documentary filmmaker and landscape architect at Harvard University. Her design research investigates the complicated landscapes that emerge from interactions between natural processes and cultural interventions, articulating the terms that make these difficult (and often contested) places legible to a wider range of audiences. She is the author of *Delta Primer: A Field Guide to the California Delta* (2003) and the forthcoming *Bay Lexicon*.

Delta landscapes are difficult to define. These “murky territories” require a careful reading, and the analysis of a site caught between land and water calls for more than a mapping project to understand its complex bounds, so often drawn in fictional lines. By engaging the ground and seeking a dialogue with the context, a landscape architectural intervention can cultivate a spatial and material language. This issue of *Pamphlet* proposes that we must thoroughly investigate the medium by innovating our design methods, strategies, processes, and tools to gain a literacy of place, which like the delta itself, embraces multiple threads, a constantly changing course, and overlapping flows. *Delta Dialogues* discusses site-reading methods that teach us to read between these rigid lines.

