

NOMADIC INFRASTRUCTURE

by

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A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate
Faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE I
Major Subject: ARCHITECTURE

Approved:

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Troy, New York

May 2012

ABSTRACT

A disaster is not necessarily a singular catastrophic event. It can be an ongoing, complex process that nevertheless demands urgent attention. Increased global instances of drought are slow disasters that impact ecosystems, infrastructures and communities throughout the world. These situations, such as the current drought and famine in the Horn of Africa, can be mitigated through design interventions that are sensitive to both human and ecological factors. As designers, we must acknowledge the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment, and the sensitivity of the complex natural systems, processes, and metabolisms we influence. Looking specifically at water accessibility at Dadaab, the largest refugee camp in the world (Care 2011), this thesis project explores the regenerative potential of biocultural infrastructure and adaptive ecological design. It proposes an integrated approach to both natural resource management and distribution to foster water and food security.