



Image credit In the Land Between website – Canadian conservation charity

eco•tone from **ecology** (**eco**; Greek **οἶκος**, **oikos** “house/dwelling”) + **-tone** from the Greek **τόνος** **tonos**, “tension.”

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Title: A House in Tension

On the East River in Manhattan, the design of The Climatorium has potential to **change culture** for a generation by creating a liminal experience where we can see ourselves **as part of nature rather than separate from it**. The built home of the Civilian Climate Corps can spark a change from exploitation (colonialism) to a balance with nature.

The architect has agency in this period of environmental crisis to dissolve boundaries and enable transition. By understanding the externalities that have determined context (broadly) we can begin to propose and test alternative forms, typologies, processes, and strategies in our designs, rooted in the essence of a place. Our objective is to make the built environment more responsive for humanity while connecting humanity with the planet.

The East River – is not a river but a tidal strait connecting Long Island Sound and the Upper Bay receiving fresh water from the Hudson River and salt water from the Atlantic Ocean. It moves with the ebbs and floods of neighboring water bodies. Its flow is dynamic, mixing fresh and salt water. An estuary, it is an example of an ecotone – a place between two biological communities.

The Site – is on the edge of the Financial District and Two Bridges – bordering the world’s economic engine and the original immigrant settlements of the Lower East Side – it is a place between two social and economic communities.

Our approach will be to examine the building as an actor in this ecotone. A place of transition at a critical time of change - A House in Tension –

public space – institution contrasting neighborhoods active – passive water - land

How can one project, by responding to context and essence, influence and amplify itself into the city and out into nature, expanding to a system and making legible this liminal zone?