While up until now infrastructure projects and architecture tended to clearly separate land from water, the thesis explores the relationship of mutual exchange in land and water design. Floods events due to heavy rain cause a river overflowing its banks and inundating surrounding areas with damages to the populations. The conviction is that landscape and architecture design are able to rule and manage the relationship between water and land. The awareness of homologation pressure of urban forms towards the countryside displaces the theory on the local dimension; the choice of the “local” does not give rise to a waiver of phenomena interpretations, but it uses the history and the layered testimonies of the local micro-history of territory.

The method is based on a multi-scale approach of landscape study, through the theories of scaling up of Roberto Gambino elaborating a study that goes from territorial scale until urban form and clusters. Paul Virilio gives architecture a key role as an instrument for measurement of the places, because it is a sum of knowledge that can define an organization of space, time and society. Through synchronic and diachronic analysis of the territory based on zenithal photos and cadastral maps, it is possible to produce a taxonomy of water landscape in Sardinia in particular in the relationship between settlements and water. Exemplar cases in the Mediterranean area offer the possibilities to deepen the theme of relations between water and habitat in order to demonstrate that architecture and landscape design can be the meter of relationship, médiance, between water and habitat able to measure his mutations and transitions. The study of dynamics of anthropic appropriation of places made possible to build transition maps that show habitat development in this areas, with the possibility to define a list of guide lines for the intervention.