A Recipe for a Photo Diagram

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Here is an easy way to visualise commonalities and connections in urban ecologies. Photo diagramming can be used to follow plants, design neighbourhoods, recognise underground waterways, track movements of critters, and imagine multispecies futures.

Photo diagrams can also help read and analyse existing urban landscapes and the trajectories that constitute them.

Photo diagrams are a communication technique to reshuffle our relations with place and the environment and inspire us to take action in our everyday lives.

10 Steps to Photo Diagramming your Neighbourhood

1. **Acknowledge first nations people.** If you are in Australia, what Country are you on? Country is the term often used by Aboriginal peoples to describe the lands, waterways and seas to which they are connected. Country includes complex ideas about law, place, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, material sustenance, family and identity. If you are not in Australia, what people have lived on the land you are now on?

2. **Start where you are. Sit on the ground.** Try to answer these questions: What can a photograph do? What can a drawing do? What might be beneficial about combining these types of images?

3. **Go for a walk, taking as many photographs as you can.** What do you notice? Did you see any other humans? What other species did you notice? How did they interact?

4. **Repeat.** The more walks you do, the more photographs you take, the better your photo diagram will be.

5. **Look at your photographs.** This is your place-based archive of more-than-human images. Well done.

6. **Sort your photographs.** Let categories emerge as a way of organising what you have seen. You can use tags or folders, albums on your phone or post it notes to sort your images.

7. **Label your categories**. Be poetic. Your words matter: critters; infrastructure; leisure; plants; trees; water flow, insects, moss, soil, rubbish, picturesque elements.

8. **Take a rest.** From memory, or by human archive of images, choose scene is everything you can see still.

9. **Draw this scene,** using the photo diagram, highlighting certain as drawings to further enhance the Use the categories you made to l

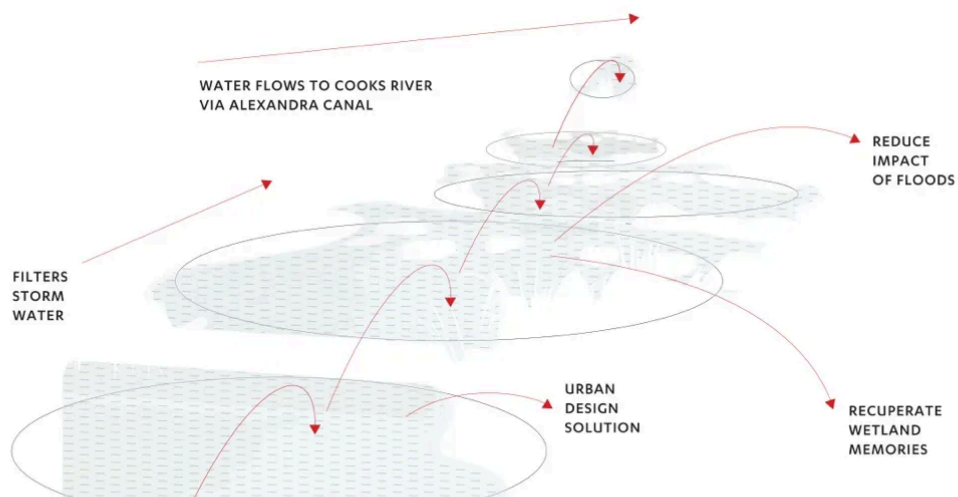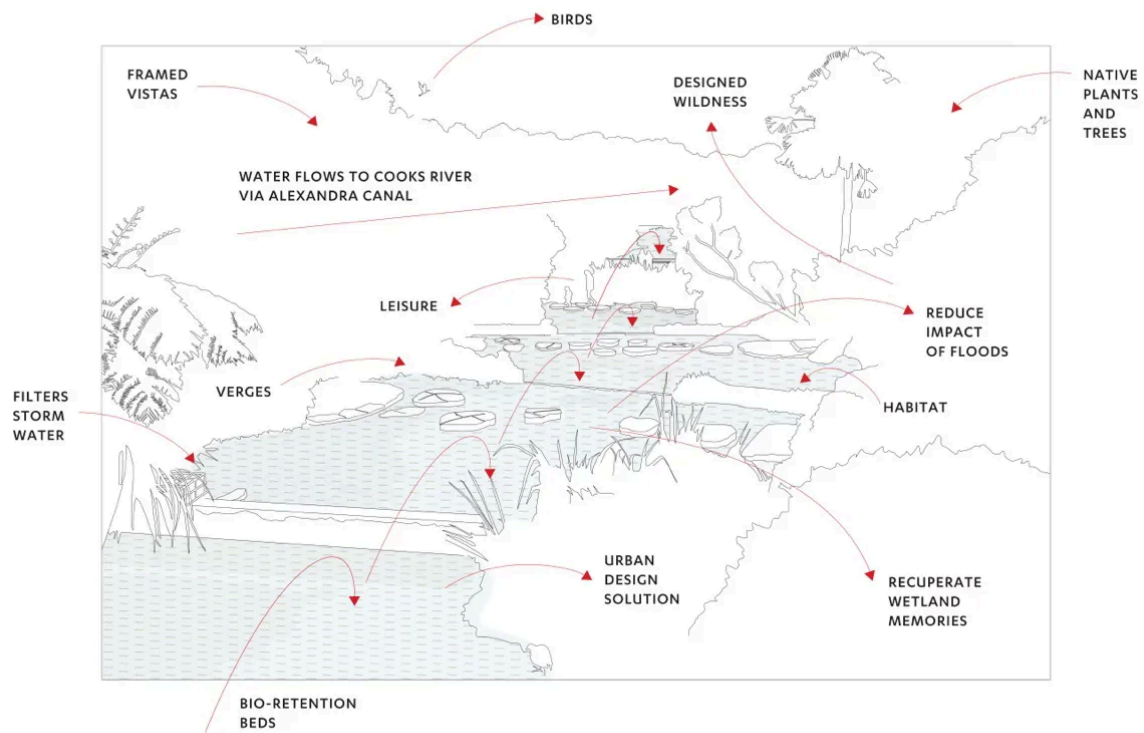10. **Take somebody on a walk in the s** with them. What have you found o

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References and Further Reading:

Jones, Sarah Jane, et al. "From Photo Documentation to Photo Diagrams: A Technique to Make Civic Ecologies Present and Legible." *Visual Communication*, May 2024, p. 14703572231218418. *DOI.org (Crossref)*, https://doi.org/10.1177/14703572231218418.

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