

*Anamnesis* is a flexible system of emergency housing and community shelter that provides not only the capability of responding efficiently to the aftermath of a catastrophic hurricane event, but also proposes a lasting legacy for the urban fabric of New York.

The system is comprised of two primary elements that can be prefabricated and stored away from the city, with other national disaster response resources:

Firstly, individual habitation modules that are structurally self-contained and can be fabricated from low cost and readily available materials such as reinforced cardboard and other processed/recycled timber products. Units can be packed flat for storage and transport and are designed to interlock into one another in a variety of different configurations. This provides a responsive housing matrix that is capable of dealing with different disaster scenarios, as well as the complex needs of contemporary American families.

Secondly, agglomerations of housing units are surrounded and protected by an inflatable membrane, which acts as a weather shield protecting the units from the elements and eliminating the need for costly junction detailing and allowing a quicker deployment of units. The membrane is fixed to the ground and the housing matrix, but is largely self supporting - constructed from bio-degradable plastic pillows that form a cellular structural rigidity to the surface. The membrane links together the disparate units, creates pockets of covered community space and generates a sense of continuity throughout the project.

The master plan is decentralized, instead of concentrating the housing in one location it winds a path of least resistance through the damaged neighborhoods of Prospect Shore. The

various strands of unit agglomerations originate from critical node points, from which power, water and other utilities are extend throughout the emergency housing network.

In utilizing a decentralized branching morphology, *Amnesis* manages to avoid the often inevitable ghetto-isation of refugee communities that frequently occurs following a major disaster. Housing units are dispersed throughout the city as it is reconstructed, and as such, individuals are not displaced from the neighborhood communities with which they are familiar.

Finally as permanent housing is restored across the city, the project can be progressively dismantled. The materials of the project can be recycled, or retained for deployment elsewhere. As the units are removed a negative space is formed across the city. While most occupied land will inevitably be replaced with building developments, *Anamnesis* proposes that some pockets be preserved as parkland and urban pathways. Like water carving its mark in the stone of canyon side, the memory of Hurricane Kirk will be indelibly inscribed into the urban fabric of New York.