We are in a world in Transformation, in which the pillars of our built environment, the materials, techniques, and design paradigms we take for granted will no longer be available, be effective, or serve our needs. It will not be possible to design or build in the future as we have in the past.

In a materially and energy constrained future, where raw materials are prohibitively expensive, what materials should we utilize? With what should we build?

In this uncertain new world, where elegant design necessitates ecologically sound design, what techniques should we use? How should we approach design?

Hypothesis I: the bedrock of a new architectural vocabulary begins with a new understanding of where to look for resources.

Think: waste to resource

Materials flow analysis is a technique from industrial ecology, used to map the movements of a material from extraction/birth to disposal/death. Think of it like a map of a watershed of a material. A materials flow analysis can be used to where to put a dam, diverting a flow from death as a waste into a new life as a new resource.

Materials Flow Analysis