



# Silt Sand and Slurry

**Dredging, Sediment, and the Worlds We Are Making**

**The Dredge Research Collaborative**

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- The topic and our approach to it is timely. Climate change, environmental transformation, and the design of equitable, effective responses are pressing concerns for coastal regions throughout the United States and globally
- This includes, but is not limited to landscape architects; there are many architects, urban designers, and spatial planners whose work also involves designing landscapes
- Shows that dredging and sediment are relevant and important to these fields by linking dredging and sediment to enduring concerns in these fields
- This is a unique and singular book: despite the urgency of the issues and the centrality of sediment to coastal landscapes, there is no existing work that is directly comparable across topic, format, and content. The Dredge Research Collaborative (DRC) is at the forefront of sediment design within landscape architecture, and we are uniquely positioned to write this book

**Silt Sand and Slurry** is a visually rich investigation into where, why, and how sediment is central to the future of America's coasts. Sediment is an unseen infrastructure that shapes and enables modern life. Silt is scooped from sea floors to deepen underwater highways for container ships. It is diverted from river basins to control flooding. It is collected, sorted, managed, and moved to reshape deltas, marshes, and beaches. Anthropogenic action now moves more sediment annually than 'natural' geologic processes — yet this global reshaping of the earth's surface is rarely-discussed and poorly-understood.

In four thematic text chapters, four geographic visual studies, and a concluding essay, this book demonstrate why sediment matters now more than ever, given our contemporary context of sea level rise, environmental change, and spatial inequality, through a documentation of the geography of dredging and sediment on the four coasts of the continental United States. The book explores the many limitations of current sediment management practices, such as short-sighted efforts to keep dynamic ecosystems from changing, failure to value sediment as a resource, and inequitable decision-making processes. In response to these conditions, the DRC delineate an approach to designing with sediment that is adaptive, healthy, and equitable.

**The Dredge Research Collaborative** is an independent 501c3 nonprofit organisation which investigates human sediment handling practices, through publications, events, and other projects. Our mission is to improve sediment management through design research, building public knowledge, and facilitating transdisciplinary conversation.