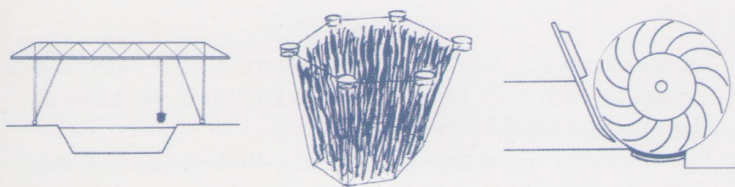


**ABOVE:** Detail of proposed re-engineering of channel diversions of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers to resolve desertification and soil salinization currently plaguing regions upstream from the Persian Gulf.

**BELOW:** Diagrams of Ocean Earth renewable energy technologies, L-R: Freshwater Canal Harvester, GAS (Giant Algae System) rig, Undershot Waterwheel.



**China Basin Model** detailing Yangtze and Yellow river projects (Installation at the Smart Museum, Chicago.) Courtesy Ocean Earth and American Fine Arts, New York.

## Ocean Earth: POLICY MODELS

August 24 – November 4

### Funderburg Gallery

Sponsored by William Charles Investments

A unique interdisciplinary collaboration, Ocean Earth Development Corporation was founded in 1980 to create comprehensive solutions to environmental problems arising from urban expansion and poor use of local resources. Ocean Earth's team of artists, architects and scientists monitor and evaluate ecologically compromised sites around the world, design architectural structures for land reclamation, and develop renewable energy technologies for sustainable living. Their visionary work, heavily based on the investigations of pioneering earthworks artists such as Robert Smithson and Dennis Oppenheim, bridges the worlds of art, science and international business to construct a new paradigm for environmental and economic progress.

Underscoring the importance of global water systems, Ocean Earth's projects have often focused on the endangered state of rivers and their corollary ocean basins, the health of which are vital to the the renewal of habitat for both human and animal populations. This exhibition outlines several Parallel River Projects which capitalize on the U. S. State Department's current sister river relationships linking the Rio Grande and Mississippi/Missouri river systems with the Yellow and Yangtze rivers in China. Through models, maps and drawings Ocean Earth details structures and renewable energy systems that could benefit both the American rivers and their overseas counterparts. The team also proposes that the U. S. develop an official relationship between the Colorado River and the Tigris/Euphrates, the natural flows of which have both been compromised by modern engineering, creating parallel natural disasters in both the Gulf of California and the Persian Gulf. These projects, which transcend geo-political divisions, underscore the need for international cooperation in dealing with environmental crises.

Also on view are plans for Ocean Earth's alternative fuel technologies derived from natural processes. Chief among these is their innovative Giant Algae System (GAS) in which marine algae is harvested and converted into clean-burning methane gas. An Ocean Earth GAS rig will be installed in the English Channel as part of a concurrent exhibition called *SEA CHANGE* at Spacex Gallery in Exeter, United Kingdom. Documentation of this event, which addresses the need for a US/UK "special relationship" based on renewable energy sources rather than fossil fuels will be included in the Rockford exhibition.

Ocean Earth has exhibited internationally and has presented projects at U. N. scientific and correspondents' conferences. Their designs for alternative fuel systems were the subject of recent installations at American Fine Arts and Nikolai Fine Art in New York.