Twitter Thread by Ketan Joshi



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This is going to be a big thread about climate change, energy, and @TheExpanseWR. Literal representation, analogues, creative decisions in general - I want to talk about it all! Will post my own thoughts, other ppl's tweets, etc.

It's been in the show from day one. The opening titles of season show

- Icebergs breaking free
- The statue of liberty's little island being built up after it's coated in water
- S4,5 sea level rise in Chesapeake bay



It's in the show too. "The gulf of Denmark". Old Boston turned into the square tops of buildings barely visible. Sea walls lock out the ocean. The show is set in 2350: climate change is driving people off Earth.

https://t.co/hy7eUHS71o



> Baltimore by S5 of The Expanse. Most of the "old" city is gone, flooded in by climate change.
>
> Unlike New York, they never got their seawall up on time to protect most of the present-day city.#TheExpanse pic.twitter.com/Wt515DQBU3
>
> — Eisenhart (@eisenharten) December 18, 2020

Some Redditor actually found a rough comparison angle to compare the CGI future Copenhagen to the real one - I've actually walked down this bit to get the Australian consulate

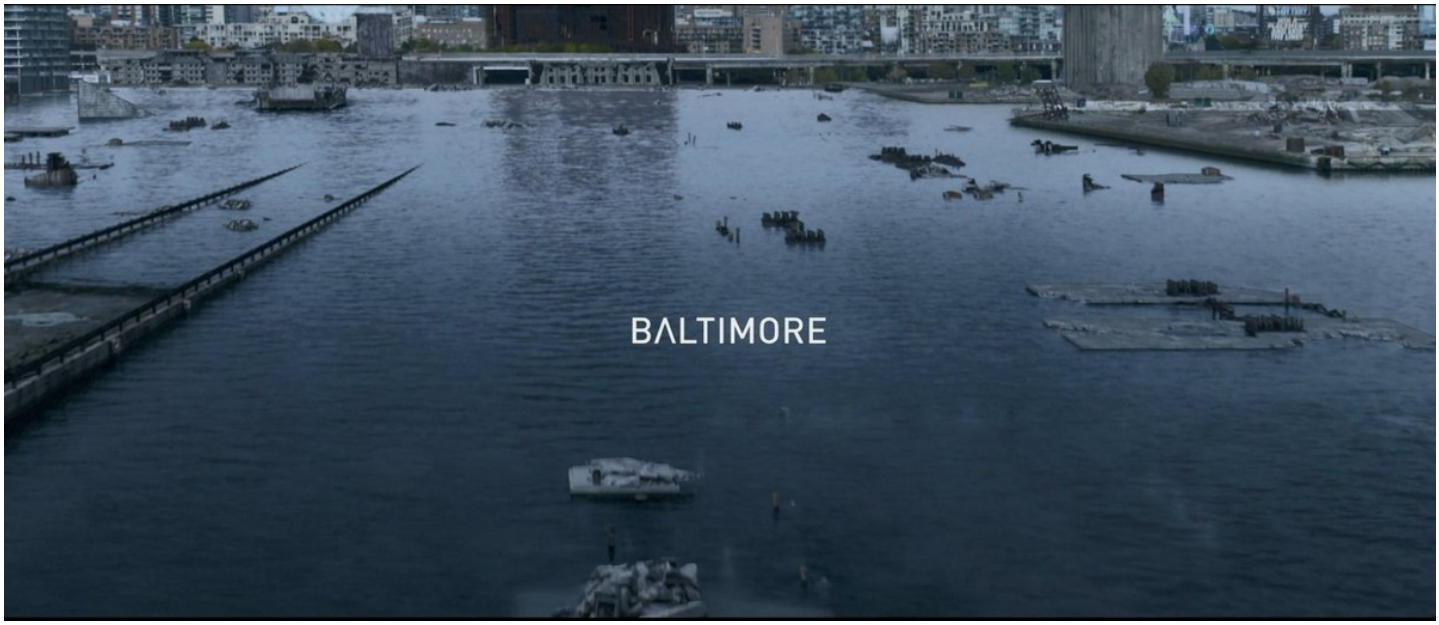
https://t.co/Prvfgm1xBC

https://t.co/WFTxJqryn7

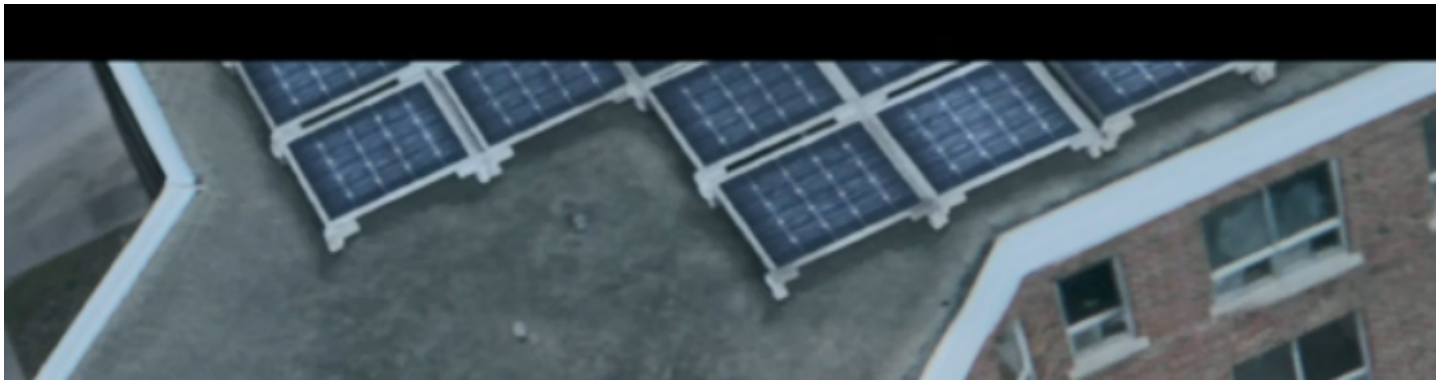
https://t.co/ljzR5UT7vm



Episode 2 of Season 5 has plenty of rich detail, now there are longer scenes on Earth. Baltimore is a post-climate city: a sea higher than the city itself, widespread apartment solar. Interestingly: not a single car; but a heavy, prominent (electric?) train, cycles, walking.



What are these panels mounted on.....and what aren't they angled!!



The total absence of cars of any kind in this show is really, really jarring once you start to notice is. Roads are walkways; public transport is dominant. It's not presented as some sort of ideal either, it's just sort of the way it is in a crumbling city



It changes the shape of the sea, too. It's never really just 'flat', it's filled with the gravestones of pre-climate Baltimore, hiding the skeletons underneath. It's really quite well done (you should be watching this show, btw, if you aren't already).



Of course, another Redditor did this analysis - teasing apart a single shot in the opening scene to see how the show's VFX team had changed America in the future, due to sea level rise. Florida mostly either wiped out or has become islands:

https://t.co/YFU09JiKLz



Climate change simply re-drawing the maps of humanity keeps turning up in the show. It's never dwelled, on characters never stand in a single spot explaining in painful detail what happened (hello Star Trek Discovery). It's just....there.

https://t.co/IpecQz6kVE

> Once again we see the effects of climate change on this world; rising sea levels have apparently cut off Anchorage (and likely the entire Kenai Peninsula) from the mainland. #TheExpanse #SomeThingsINoticed pic.twitter.com/I9KzS1At8C
>
> — Will Wagner \u2764\ufe0f\U0001f49c\U0001f499 (@will_wagner) September 8, 2018

Will continue this later but for now please read @themadstone on this, she's truly the authority https://t.co/0SIXYVNNGq