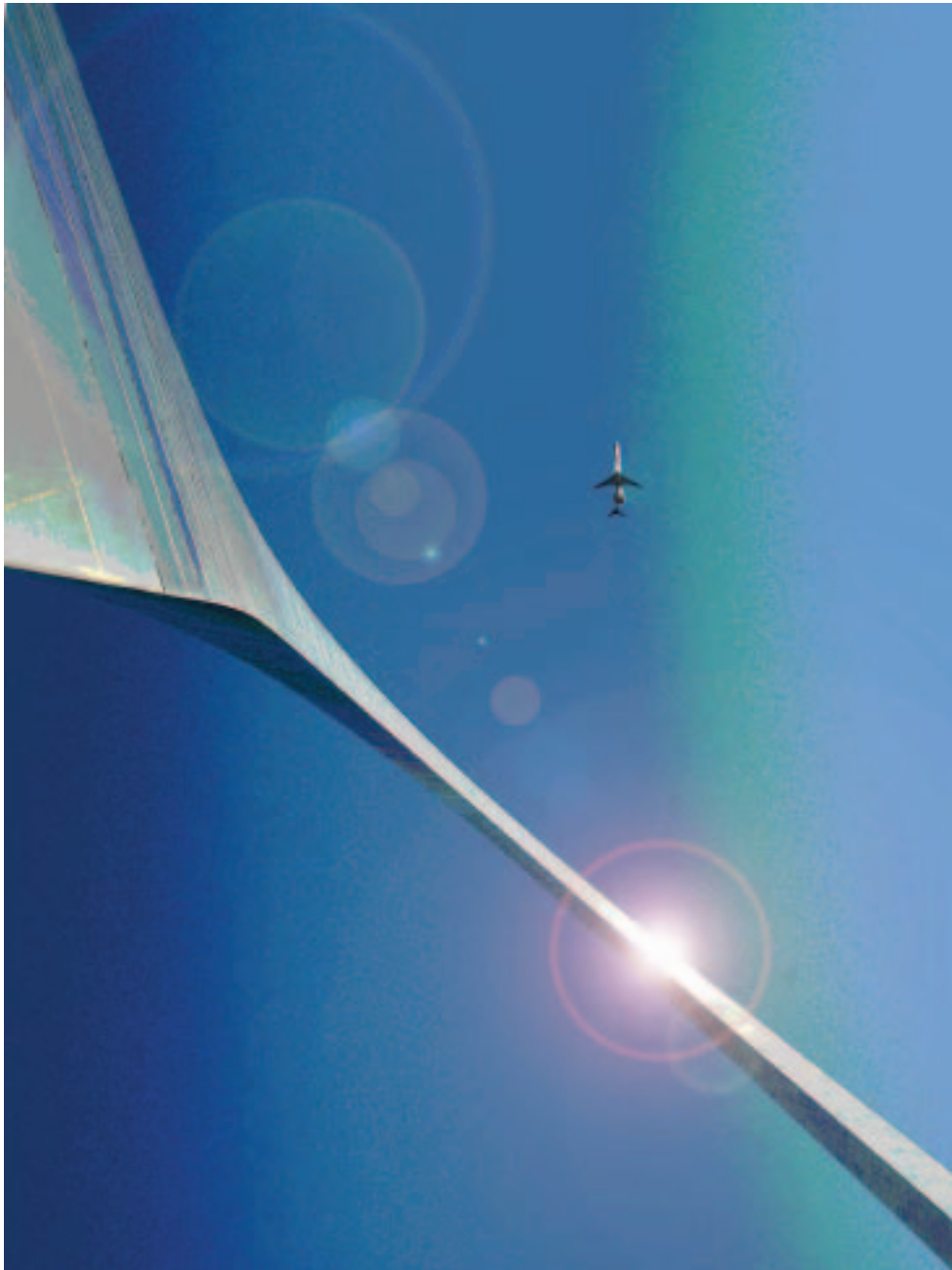


SITELINES

Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



Climate Change

President • Design Vancouver • Design Charrette • Strategic Plans • Woodland

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The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCSLA.

President Promotes Professionalism

BY PAWEL GRADOWSKI MBCSLA



President Pawel.

Drawing by Cameron Murray

The year 2005 was an exceptional year for Landscape Architects across British Columbia. This year appears to be even more promising with a number of interesting projects on the horizon. There are four years to go until the Winter Olympics, housing development in the Lower Mainland is booming and almost every office is working at full capacity. It is hard to find a moment to relax or to contemplate the distant future; while every business owner knows that when it is busy one has to work harder to plan for the future. The same idea holds true in planning for the future of the profession of Landscape Architecture.

While planning for the future, one has to consider that our environment is going through some significant transformations, which will eventually change our perception of landscape. Environments we take for granted today, will not be the same tomorrow. I am optimistic about the future and sense that where there is a problem, there is also a solution. I believe that we, as Landscape Architects, must look for opportunities to present the world with smart solutions to the environmental challenges that are currently appearing in the daily news.

It is a necessity for our profession to intimately understand the construction process and its economy, to understand and meet the needs of various engineers, work together with architects and planners, to satisfy various requirements of the law, understand and work with Nature and meet the needs of people. Through this experience, we are uniquely qualified to become the best leaders of positive change in urban development; as it is the landscape architectural treatment, or lack of it, that has possibly the most influential role in new, sustainable, urban development.

Today, the rising price of gas may deter us from taking a trip to a remote place. Tomorrow, the energy crisis may entirely change the way we commute

Continued on page 2



The Gateway Arch in St Louis was designed in 1947 by Eero Saarinen and built from 1961 to 1965. It still feels contemporary today. The mathematical precision of its design and construction is inspiring, given that : a) no computers were used, b) it is a catenary curve, c) it had to be built from two points and meet precisely at its apex, by old school survey, without lasers, d) it has a tapering cross section from a fifty-four foot equilateral triangle at base, rising to seventeen feet at apex and e) it was not self supporting until the two sides of the arch were connected with keystone pieces and during construction each leg had a large creeper crane, adding 100 tons to the load. Slide-rules-a-go-go.

Caption & Photograph by Pat Harrison

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President Promotes Professionalism

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to work or think about vacations. Potable water is already a precious commodity in many parts of the world. We have changed our perception of the Sun and the effects of solar radiation. Organizations and individuals including some landscape architects are working hard to find solutions to these and other issues that will have a significant effect on our lifestyle. We all shall join this group and bring our expertise to the Integrated Design process that promotes sustainable development. Our broadly applied professional leadership will provide us with more opportunities for influencing the way people think and through this process help stimulating more positive growth.

Once I heard Cornelia Oberlander say that to be able to make a positive change in the world, one has to have five traits that all start with the letter P. These are Professionalism, Passion, Persistence,

Patience and Politeness. We can take this wisdom into our hearts, whether we work for a municipality, in the private sector, or in educating future Landscape Architects. I also believe that we should add one more P word to this list. Promotion can be the key element that may not only raise the profile of our profession; but also will allow us to be better understood and supported in our initiatives by the society in which we live and work.

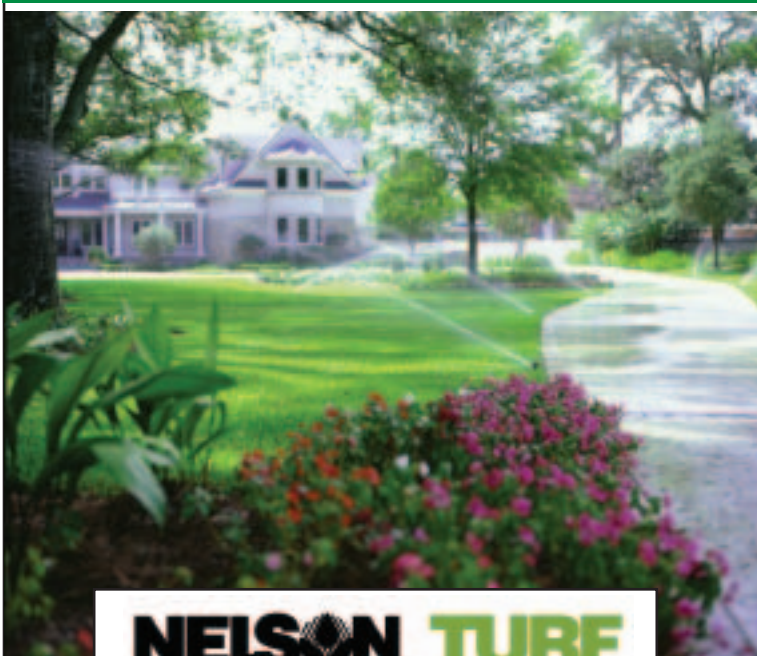
Every one of us, regardless of the particular aspect of Landscape Architecture that we

perform, can look for opportunities to promote our profession.

We may get involved in neighbourhood projects, school programmes, various organizations related to development, and participate in Advisory Design Panels. We can promote our profession at all levels of government and demand participation in all projects where environmental issues are involved. I strongly believe that Landscape Architecture is uniquely positioned to make changes today that will positively influence the way our great grandchildren will play.



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Design Vancouver BY GRACE FAN MBCSLA

Urban Living Expo

The BCSLA Board voted to accept an invitation to exhibit at the Design Vancouver Urban Living Expo, held at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre in April 2006. This was the second season for the annual Design Vancouver, a design show that is catered towards a new generation of urban dwellers that appreciate sophisticated and intelligent contemporary design. After doubling the exhibition space from last year, show director Jason Heard, approached BCSLA to be an exhibitor at the show along with AIBC, Emily Carr, Azure Magazine, Space Agency, Inform, Living Space, Joel Berman Glass Studio and many other exhibitors. Design Vancouver presented an excellent opportunity for the BCSLA to showcase our members work to the general public, and to celebrate the critical contributions landscape architects have made to the livability of our urban environment.

After considering the exhibition material, the limited time frame and resources, Mark Vaughan and I decided to create a series of display panels featuring highly recognizable and successful urban living rooms and their designers. In order to engage visitors further, we would also ask viewers to fill out ballots to provide comments and to choose favourite urban public spaces. A Call for Submissions was posted in the BCSLA Friday email to members and fourteen projects were submitted.

We received great cooperation and support from all who submitted their projects. As chair of the Communications Committee, Tom Barratt and his office devoted an extraordinary amount of time and talent in laying out these boards so that they were fresh, energetic, eye-catching and professional. The show opened at noon on April 13 and we had fourteen panels, featuring the projects and designers listed below, plus an introductory panel configured into five columns situated in the central aisle of the Design Vancouver show floor.

Projects showcased included:

Andy Livingston Park, Vancouver,
by Peter Kreuk

BC Hydro Corporate Plaza, Vancouver,
by Jane Durante

Blacks Patio, Whistler, by Tom Barratt

Discovery Square ALRT Station,
Vancouver, by Don Vaughan

George Wainborn Park, Vancouver,
by Bruce Hemstock & partners

Granville Loop Park, Vancouver,
by Kim Perry & Michael Patterson

Harbour Green II, Vancouver,
by Jeff Phillips & partners

Marina Neighbourhood, Coal Harbour,
Vancouver by Greg Smallenberg

New Port Village, Port Moody,
by Larry Diamond and office

Richmond City Hall, Richmond,
by Chris Phillips

Robson Square, Vancouver,
by Cornelia Oberlander

St. Andrew's Park, North Vancouver,
by Dave Hutch

UBC Earth & Ocean Sciences Courtyard,
UBC, by Richard Findlay

Vancouver Skateplaza, Vancouver,
by Mark van der Zalm

Mark Vaughan, Pawel Gradowski, Adrienne Brown, Jeff Cutler and I took turns at the BCSLA display during the show. We encouraged visitors to fill out the ballots, chatted with them about the profession, and had many interesting exchanges on open spaces in the city. I personally talked to a very diverse make-up of people, including high school students, skate board enthusiasts (no doubt Skateplaza was chosen as their favourite), university professors, out-of-town visitors, doctors, city councillors, artists, community activists, architects and designers. Many visitors looked at EVERY display

panel in great detail. There was great interest in these projects, as well as the stories told by their designers. Out of the 25,000 visitors to Design Vancouver, more than two hundred individuals took time to fill out the ballots.

After the show, Chris Sterry went through the ballots and reported that many of the recently constructed urban parks were among the highest vote-getters, including George Wainborn Park, Gravelle Loop Park and the park and plaza at Harbour Green II in Coal Harbour. Adrienne Brown also went through the comments on the ballots and summarized as follows:

The visitors to Design Vancouver understand and appreciate the delicate balance between nature and the built environment, and the impact that a successful design can make on the human psyche. The qualities of the fourteen parks and urban open spaces that struck people the most were peacefulness, tranquility, and oasis in the heart of the city. There is a strong appreciation of simplicity in design, and an understanding of both the power of carefully balanced asymmetry, and the ways in which an Asian design influence can be reflected in very subtle and powerful ways. This quality was identified as an important aspect of both Robson Square and Richmond City Hall. Some visitors noted how certain elements such as the yellow 'Adirondak' chairs and the terrace in George Wainborn Park sparked the imagination, taking them to the deck of a cruise ship, to Westmount in Montreal, or to Montmartre in Paris. There was a clear appreciation of the social value of placing a skatepark on an underutilized piece of land under a viaduct, and how tight urban spaces such as the Discovery Park Skytrain Station can be successfully transformed into bright and engaging passageways for the daily commuter. St. Andrew's Park was cited as a design that provides comfort and delight for the mother or caregiver, and for the children who come to play. There is a clear appreciation of how these places successfully fuse the experience of indoor and outdoor space, blurring the lines between the two, and embracing the outdoors without overwhelming the natural environment.

Continued on page 6

Design Vancouver - continued from page 5

The following is a sample of written comments on the ballots that we received:

St. Andrew's Park

The beach-like look, and the contemporary playground incorporate all aspects of BC living. Overall, I feel it is an awesome way to provide fun, learning and appreciation of nature that has been rolled into one fantastically designed and breathtaking package!

Harbour Green II

I love the transition between water and land. It brings people to life.

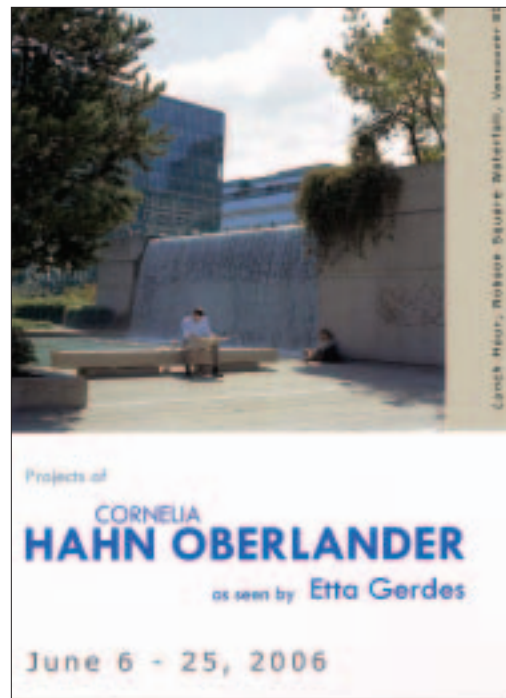
Vancouver Skate Plaza

Not just your average landscape + very well used + sociopedal/ social environment. It's sustainable in many ways. Reuse of existing space.

Brings purpose to people. Brings people together. Gets public interacting with outdoors. Promotes fitness. Sense of ownership to those who use it.

The BCSLA presence at this year's Design Vancouver generated considerable public interest and raised public awareness of the profession. The BCSLA Communications Sub-committee is also putting together a strategic plan to raise public profile - a high priority issue raised by many members. If you have comments on this topic ideas for next year's Design Vancouver show, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Grace Fan, is a Director of the BCSLA and practices Landscape Architecture with Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg.



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Global Warming and Land Use Planning

BY ART COWIE, MBCSLA, FCSLA, MCIP



Sea Change. Metropolitan Vancouver is shown in the year 2060, with new shorelines after a three metre rise in sea level. Image by Rick Balfour, Balfour Associates Strategic Planning, 2004.

If you are involved with land use planning in any way, I recommend reading the article on Global Warming by Mark Hertsgaard in the Green Issue of *Vanity Fair*, May 2006. The article starts with, *The Queen of England is afraid. International CEOs are nervous. And the Scientific establishment is loud and clear. If global warming isn't halted, rising sea levels could submerge coastal cities by 2100.* Much of the article is about Prime Minister Blair trying to convince President Bush about taking the threat seriously and the United States taking world leadership, which hasn't happened to this date.

Earth temperatures are rising, according to renowned scientists such as Sir David King, Britain's chief scientific advisor, because greenhouse gases are trapping heat in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, the most prevalent of such gases, is released whenever fossil fuels are burned or forests catch fire as has occurred in British Columbia in recent years. Global warming, the scientists say, threatens to raise sea levels as much as three feet by the end of the 21st century, thanks to melting glaciers and swollen oceans. If global warming is not arrested some scientists predict a rise of three meters. This would leave much of the low lands on the British Columbia coast under water.

The *Vanity Fair* article illustrates a number of more drastic situations. It shows an image of Washington, DC with a rise in sea level of six meters, which many scientists expect if the entire Greenland ice sheet melts. The ice sheet has shrunk fifty cubic miles in the past year alone evidently, and is melting twice as fast as previously believed. There is also an image of New York City in the article showing the effects of an eighty foot rise in sea levels. Only the office towers show above water. That is what happens if not only the Greenland ice sheet, but its counterpart in the Antarctic were to melt, says James Hansen, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Hansen warns that, if global emissions continue on their current trajectory, the ice sheets will not survive, because global temperatures will increase two to three degrees Celsius by the end of this century. The last time the earth was that warm, sea levels were eighty feet higher than today. It will likely take hundreds of years for sea levels to rise this much, but the process would be irreversible. Under this scenario there would be a continually changing coastline, which will force people to constantly relocate. A calamity like this would lay waste to all major waterfront recent developments in Vancouver.

It is hard to imagine; but even a one meter rise will be scary to city officials. In mid April I was boating in front of George Wainbourne Park in False Creek and opposite a twelve storey condominium just being constructed. It was high tide with a brisk southerly wind. The sea water was less than one foot below the top of the new sea wall. This is the highest I have witnessed the sea level in False Creek and a one meter rise would cause flooding over the sea wall. Many other waterfront areas around the City of Vancouver have been designed with sea walls to withstand current sea levels. If the sea level rose a meter or three meters we would lose most of our waterfront parks. Along the North Arm of the Fraser River one can only speculate what the damage would be because it would be difficult to construct flood protection measures.

Since roughly half of the world's 6.5 billion people live along coastlines, a rise in sea level of three feet will be even more devastating overseas than in North America where there are funds for building protection. Think of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh where there are yearly flooding problems already. The fear is that these millions of people will migrate to neighbouring higher lands, and cause conflict over places to live and grow food. This is just one of the reasons climate change is the most severe problem the world is facing today, more serious even than acts of terrorism.

Can we avoid the worst scenarios of global warming? Scientists such as David King say we can avoid chaos only if humanity reduces its greenhouse gas emissions dramatically, and very soon. King says emissions must fall sixty percent below 1990 levels, before 2050. This is a period when populations are projected to rise and per-capita consumption is also expected to rise as billions of people in Asia, Africa and South America struggle out of poverty. This is not going to happen unless there is massive technological change and global warming is controlled. Curtailing population growth worldwide has not happened in spite of

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Global Warming

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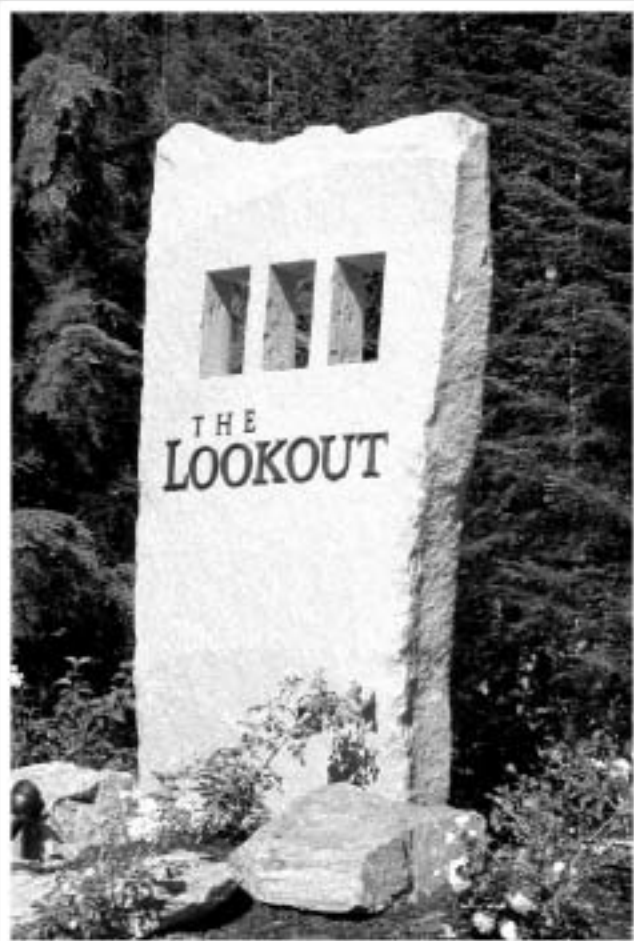
warnings of over-population and a lack of ability to grow sufficient food. Maybe the actual higher sea levels in developing countries will curtail the population growth simply because there won't be the food.

Scientists use the neutral term 'climate change' to all that is going to happen if we don't get emissions under control. A better term if we have actually gone over the point of no return is climate chaos. It will effect everyone, even the wealthy. Everyone needs to be part of the change in trying to overcome the more severe scenarios. Getting the United States on board with the goals of the Kyoto Protocol, which has been ratified by 162 countries, is crucial. If the US won't endorse Kyoto why should large industrializing countries such as China and India endorse it? The U.S. is causing forty percent of the emissions, mainly from automobiles, and must set the lead for change.

Nobody is arguing that phasing out carbon based fuels will be easy; but here also lie new opportunities. The search for alternative non-emission sources of energy can generate wealth. China, for example, is already recognizing this with a manufacture of solar systems that can be exported around the world. There are enormous opportunities for those who want to meet the challenge. As land use planners, we need to build in incentives in our plans that support these new directions and do it fast.

Traditional urban plans supporting low densities and sprawl should be a thing of the past. We must ensure that as many environmentally sensible initiatives as possible become part of our new and renewed communities or Rick Balfour's map of the Greater Vancouver Region indicates a certainty.

Art Cowie welcomes comments on this and other planning articles. He can be contacted by E-mail at: eikos@RememberNow.com. Thanks to Rick Balfour for his map and to Graham Murchie for his helpful editing.



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Sustainability by Design

A Regional Design Charrette

BY RAY STRAATSMA

Four million people are expected to live in the Vancouver region by 2056, a doubling of today's population. What might a region of 4 million people look like? How will our cities and towns accommodate that growth? How will housing, land use, jobs and transport be designed, delivered and distributed? Can the region's vaunted livability be sustained? How much greater will the Vancouver region be? On June 17, over 200 design and planning professionals will deliberate those questions, and illustrate potential solutions, at a Regional Design Charrette, organized by UBC's Design Centre for Sustainability.

The regional charrette, a six-hour intensive design workshop with Landscape Architects, Planners and Architects from across Canada, is one of many events taking place on Super Saturday, an inter-disciplinary day of activities, tours and exhibits taking place in Vancouver just prior to the UN World Urban Forum. Super Saturday is hosted by a partnership of the six urban planning and design professional associations meeting in Vancouver, prior to WUF: the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, the Planning Institute of British Columbia, the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

The visual foundation for the Design Charrette will be a large nine by thirteen metre aerial photomontage of the GVRD. Groups of three or four will each work on a five kilometre square panel, proposing and drawing options for the projected population changes projected for that area. To guide the design process, participants will be provided with demographic data and a palette of building types and colours.

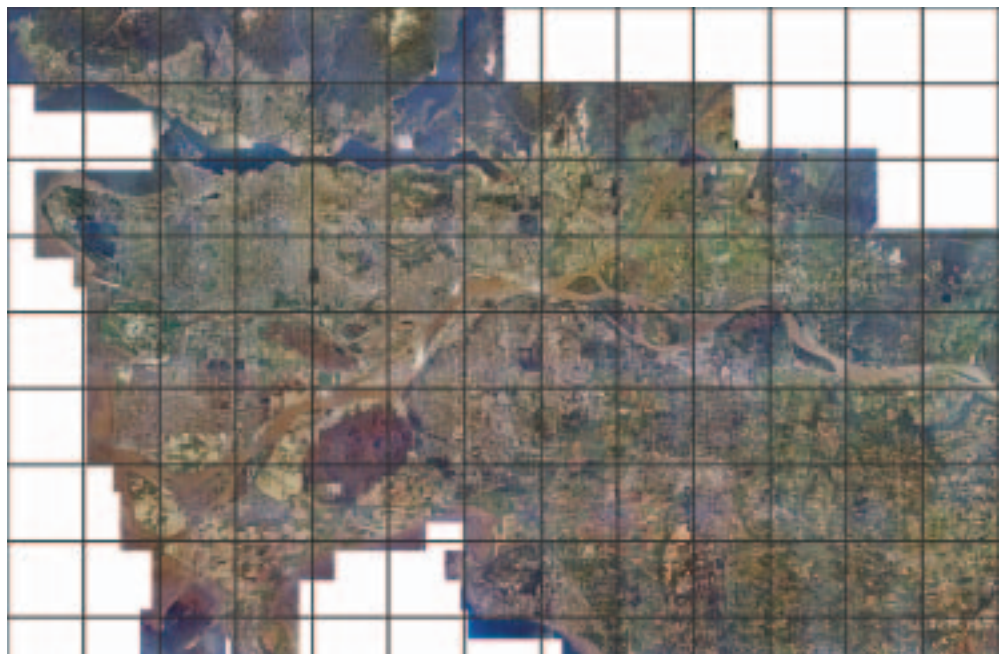
The regional charrette is the brainchild of Patrick Condon, a professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia, who holds the James Taylor Chair in Landscape and Livable Environments. The intention here is to provide a compelling and persuasive picture of the region, says Professor Condon. Each square represents a slice of the region, with choices to make when adding new population: what types of buildings and homes, what mix of jobs and residents? How to integrate green spaces and watersheds with new development? How should transport systems intersect with communities and employment? Making these choices will help all of us envision better neighbourhoods, vibrant commercial centres, and a more sustainable region for the future. For Patrick Condon, the regional charrette is an exercise that encourages participants to look at neighbourhoods in a regional context, and see the region through the lens of neighbourhoods.

The site is to the region what the cell is to the body, said Condon.

Or as Chris DeMarco, development manager for the Greater Vancouver Regional District recently told the Vancouver Sun: It's a planners without borders brainstorming session, thinking about the region as a whole, forgetting about municipal boundaries.

The regional charrette is not a stand-alone event; rather, it is complemented by additional design workshops and research on individual sites and districts within the region. Together, this broader multi-year initiative is called Sustainability by Design (SxD). SxD is premised on the notion that sustainable neighbourhood design, if widely applied, can and should be the crucial ingredient to ensure a sustainable region in the future. By 2050, what will our neighbourhoods and communities look like on the ground? How can we visualize and illustrate

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Aerial photomontage of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, prepared for the Design Charrette. Image provided by Ray Straatsma.

Sustainability by Design

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potential growth scenarios, at both the regional and community level?

To shape this discussion and potential design solutions for new and evolving communities, the SxD team developed six sustainability principles:

- 1) Create jobs within communities to reduce driving time;
- 2) Develop high-density commercial and residential corridors along transit routes;
- 3) Locate residents within walking distance of services and amenities;
- 4) Provide green space for recreation and nature;
- 5) Create a range of housing types to accommodate a mix of incomes in the same area;
- 6) Integrate natural systems to reduce infrastructure costs and environmental impact.

Guided by these six principles, and rolled out through a coordinated series of research briefs, community workshops, exhibitions and publications, Sustainability by Design aims to assist municipal officials, planners, citizens and stakeholders explore urban design visions for the long-range development of particular districts and communities. For the district scale workshops, the UBC Design Centre invited Vancouver-area municipalities to select study area sites in three categories: Corridors, Nodes, and Edges. In most major metropolitan areas, such sites can be seen as the main building blocks of the urban landscape.

In partnership with municipal staff and community stakeholders, the SxD has just completed a round of workshops and charrettes for Kingsway in Burnaby (corridor); 200 Street in Langley (node); and East Ladner in Delta (edge). The results outline a preliminary vision of a potential future, but show plenty of promise and opportunity for some

challenging sites. Over the longer term, Sustainability by Design hopes to illuminate and inspire long-term support for a sustainable Vancouver region among elected officials, municipal and regional staff, the NGO sector, real estate and development professionals and the citizenry of greater Vancouver.

You are invited to join us for the one-day regional design charrette on Saturday, June 17th. See www.landfood.ubc.ca/sxd for links to register, and for additional information on Sustainability by Design. Or contact: Ray Straatsma (ray.straatsma@ubc.ca) at the UBC Design Centre for Sustainability. Sustainability by Design is supported by the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Real Estate Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, Transport Canada, and Western Economic Diversification Canada, in partnership with the Fraser Basin Council.

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Strategic Sustainable Planning Committee

Notes from the August 2005 Seminar

BY RICHARD BALFOUR & EILEEN KEENAN

This is one of those meetings that, twenty-five years from now, people will look back and say that was one of those special meetings where a lot of important changes started to happen. BILL REES, SCARP, UBC

The August 2005 Workshop aimed to make links between futurists, practicing professionals, academia and students. The idea was to try to prompt an awakening and spur to action in the face of the arrival of a peak oil crisis with its subsequent impact on our economy, culture and social structures. In a three hour session, future shock scenarios were tested within group discussions. The process has been referred to as a war game, as the intent was to enable dynamic interactions between competing interests. The workshop was mainly held to see if possible solutions came out of the exercise.

Every participant was assigned to one of four task groups: A) Cultural & Institutional Sustainability, B) Economic Sustainability, C) Environmental Sustainability and D) the Community Gaming Session. Each group looked at potential issues, actions and solutions that may arise in relation to their subject of focus. One person was assigned the role of agent provocateur, also called the predator. The predator moved between groups, undermining some safe assumptions and sparking the emergence of new ideas, under a crisis mode. The four groups then came together to pool findings and to give the Vancouver City Planning Commission direction for pushing significant planning forward. A report in more detail on this session is posted on the web at www.newcity.ca

A) Cultural & Institutional Sustainability

This group posed a number of questions as a framework for their thinking:

How frail are our institutional structures

and what kind of pressures can they withstand? What institutions help us move forward in a positive, progressive and creative way? Are we working to make good policies? How do we make good policies work? Can we retool our society and how? How are we creating social capital and how can we maintain it under crisis mode? Do we have faith in the public's ability to make good decisions? What about in times of crisis?

Today we take a very individualized approach and step away from community action. We need to get away from an idea that a house is a world and more into the public realm. We need to redesign with human needs and sustainability at the centre. It feels as if government has given up its responsibility to regulate in the public interest and government is not always honest in the implementation of values and promises, leading to an increased distrust of its function. We know what needs to be done; but we have a disconnection between knowledge and action. We have mechanisms and institutions that can make it happen; but in our culture at this time, the state cannot act unless a population recognizes there is a need to do something. This brings us to the realization that mass awareness is a necessary precondition to making changes which enable real sustainability.

B) Economic Sustainability

This workshop started by considering scenarios such as the potential for radical change to occur in future; while we continue to use natural resources and grow as much as we currently are. But this group took economic impact questions in a very different direction. There seemed to be a clear divide along generational lines. In addressing issues such as climate change, urban population growth and social process; the younger student members

of the group always viewed the future as a place where we will be unable to maintain our current high standard of living. They fully expect lifestyles to change as resources become depleted and as those in lesser developed countries take their share or start to contribute to the decaying of the globe. However, the whole seminar group felt that future living standards would not be significantly different than the present situation. No doomsday or worst case scenario was addressed by this group. Meanwhile, others present at the wrap session did not feel that avoiding the issue was realistic.

C) Environmental Sustainability

This group discussed the environmental implications of an energy crisis, with the following examples. People will want to travel less and live in smaller homes due primarily to the cost of heating. New small cities could be formed around places like Langley and Surrey; while new development would be more dense to preserve farmland and to reduce travel distances. New energy is possible from small hydroelectric projects and wind farms. This group did not identify serious impacts to the environment. Nuclear power generation was also discussed, with reservations as to what to do with waste radioactive materials.

D) Gaming Session

As an interactive community dialogue, people in the fourth group took up roles within a community in crisis, effected by peak oil price shock impact. Questions setting up the context for this can be found in an appendix of the report posted on the web at www.newcity.ca

Participants were asked to take on roles of community interest, typical of the inhabitants of suburbia, in the face of a peak oil crisis. This allowed conflicts to arise, with the intent to see

Continued on page 13

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Strategic Sustainability Planning

- continued from page 9

how individual and family decisions culminated in larger, perhaps unforeseen, social change. The aim was to use role playing as a way of investigating how to deal with social destabilization and allow for a soft landing for our cities in crisis. Key topics discussed included: transportation options for suburban areas, backyard agriculture as a means to food security, as well as employment, workplace and commuting issues.

How well a community may adapt will depend on whether change is incremental and whether we have a culture that will be able to collectively organize and adapt to crisis situations. Longer planning horizons

and broader views are required, even without an energy crisis and a forty year plan could be a minimum span. We also need to talk about whether a soft landing needs to be managed, if we feel that a soft landing is indeed possible. Administrative systems need to be overhauled and conventional thinking based on cheap energy must be reworked to allow for a soft landing scenario to play out. Further delay or ignoring problems will only make the outcome worse, perhaps disastrous.

A reduction of waste was raised as an issue by the younger participants. There is a pressure of consumerism for products designed to be disposable. It is necessary to reduce this need to consume and to instead support a minimalist lifestyle, in for our generation, and the next generations,

to experience a soft-landing as oil resources disappear.

As a result of this event, new alliances were formed and participants resolved to make changes to deal with these future shock scenarios. A follow up session is planned for August 2006. The aim will be to update our assumptions, in light of the events of the last year and to review our progress. The aim of this new gaming session will be on how to raise public consciousness above the current lip service to green planning issues.

Rick Balfour and Eileen Keenan are Chair and Vice Chair of the Strategic Sustainable Planning Committee, A Committee of the Vancouver City Planning Commission. A report in more detail on this session is posted on the web at www.newcity.ca

THE DEPLETION OF RESOURCES & THE IMPACT ON PATTERNS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: THE NEED FOR LONG RANGE STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE PLANNING.

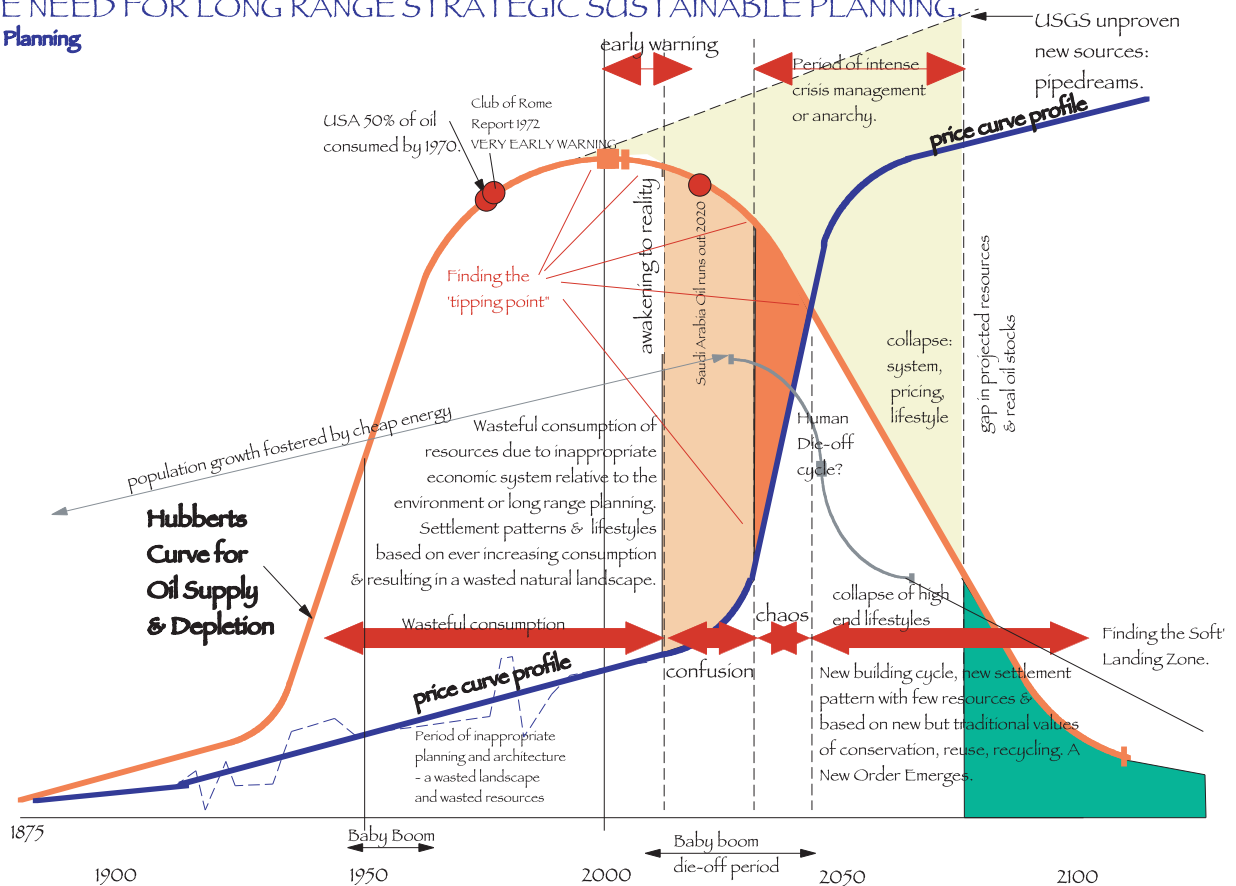
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2003.II, after Hubbert, Rees, rev 06.04

We are neglecting the design of appropriate patterns of settlement & transportation systems for the fast approaching new reality of energy scarcity & resource depletion.

We need strategies to deal with the following new realities:

- settlements will tend to be located in temperate climate zones & on higher ground.
- large sections of our existing cities will be abandoned as they are unsustainable. New appropriate concentrations of population will emerge as physical long range interaction becomes minimal.
- food production will return to restricted smaller areas and serving local needs.
- mass transit will be used for inter and intra city movement of people & goods.
- settlements will be comprised of smaller towns, smaller houses & narrower streets.
- localized industry, farming & market return. Proximity to food production, social networks & natural reserves will mark points of new community.



Woodland and Imagination

BY TRACY PENNER MBCSLA

There are distinct limitations to adventuring in the backyard of a small, newly cleared city lot. In 1969, ours was as barren as most; a flat plane, one-third of it asphalt driveway, the remaining two-thirds grass tufts struggling to exist amongst the weeds. This dispossessed rectangle of land offered little to intrigue or entice young imaginations, and from as early as I can recall, escape was my main objective. As soon as my younger brother was of an age to follow, we would pedal off, provisions packed, in search of jungle and forest adventure.

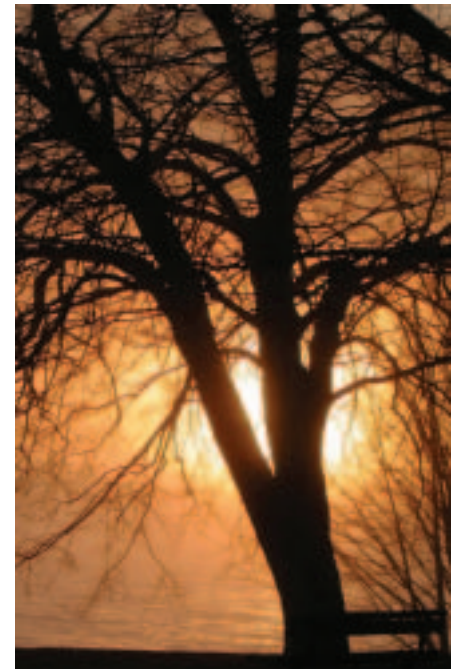
Central Park was one mile square of untamed woodland at that time, and it was only a fifteen minute bike ride from our house. For a few summers, it became our favourite destination because of its vast size and relative solitude, and because it had a feeling of the wild about it, which we loved. There were two main pathways through the park, one running east to west, the other, north to south; smaller trails wound their way throughout the underbrush. We would roar through the main paths on our bikes until we were in the thick of the woods. There we would scramble through the dark and silent stand of evergreens, following the roughly tramped footpaths for as long as we could. If no trail was evident, we struck out in our own direction, walking and tumbling our bikes over carpets of fallen needles, dodging saplings and rotting logs until we could find a suitable hiding spot for our bikes, or ourselves, or both.

We did not restrict ourselves to games of hide and seek. We pretended to be shipwrecked, exploring the wilderness as we hunted and foraged for berries, becoming familiar with native botanicals, spying on wildlife. Like the Swiss Family Robinson, we re-routed a creek to better float a paper boat, or built a treefort using only our wits and a pocketknife. Rarely did anyone

intrude on our games, and we would let our imaginations run as wild as the woods themselves.

In that shrouded privacy, we shared a freedom not available in our own backyard, where the influence of the neighbourhood intervened. My brother's friends would have scorned him for playing with girls, mine would insist that girls couldn't be pirates, and that younger siblings were babies not worth our time. In the heart of those woods, we made the rules, my brother and I. We played out our favourite movies, created new endings to old stories and, like hobbits, we expected to one day encounter a band of trolls in a clearing, fairies or elves behind a tree, a dragon in the gully. Sometimes we deliberately tried to lose ourselves, dropping pebbles like Hansel and Gretel so that we could find our way back. Mystery and adventure. What a time we had!

For most children growing up in our generation, opportunities to explore and adventure were abundant and I am of the opinion that it was a great blessing, if not a prerequisite for a happy childhood. Today though, we see the growth of our cities reducing the availability of wilderness landscape, and finding a place where the imagination can thrive is increasingly difficult. I believe the freedom to explore a forest is as integral to the development of imagination as it is to the nurturing of respect for nature, attributes which are fundamental if future generations are to enjoy the quality of life we are accustomed to in British Columbia. Had I been confined to the backyard as a child, would my love of nature be as keen? Would I be as creative? It is disconcerting to discover that so many children must confine their adventure, and while a great deal of thought goes into the planning and



*Woodland and Imagination. Stanley Park
photograph by Gregory Dash, Vancouver Parks Board*

development of playgrounds, it is at the expense of an ever diminishing number of natural park settings.

In our work, we should do whatever we can to ensure there remains enough forest to enchant the imaginations of those who follow us. We must never forget the importance of nature to the experience of the city. As landscape architects, we are in the advantageous position professionally to remind city planners, developers, and the public of the value a patch of wild land possesses. And we must never lose faith in the power of nature to incite and fuel the imagination, nor the merit of that gift to the generations who rely on us for their future.

Tracy Penner is a new member of the BCSLA, having earned her BLA from UBC. She has worked to help plan and install naturalized areas and native plant gardens at over a dozen schools in BC, often as a consultant with Evergreen.

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BCSLA 2006 Calendar of Events

June 12-13	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams, Vancouver, BC
June 14-17	RAIC/AIBC Festival of Architecture, Vancouver, BC
June 14-17	CSLA/CELA Conference – Shifting Ground, Vancouver, BC
June 17	Super Saturday, Vancouver, BC
June 17-21	2006 CIP/PIBC Conference - World Planners Congress, Vancouver, BC
June 19-23	UN World Urban Forum, Vancouver, BC
June 27	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 31	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline
August	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting
August	C/LARE (Computerized Landscape Architectural Exams)
Sept. 7-9	CLARB Annual General Meeting, San Antonio, TX
Sept. 20-21	BCLNA CanWest Hort Show, Vancouver, BC
September 23	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October 3-4	C/LARE Administration
October 6-10	ASLA AGM and Expo/IFLA World Congress, Minneapolis, MN
October 13	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams (LARE) Candidate Order Deadline: December 2006 Sitting
October 4	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October	BCSLA Board of Examiners Fall Sitting
October 31	2007 Sitelines Annual Update Submissions
November	BC Landscape and Nursery Association AGM
November 28	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting

Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects

March 25, 2006, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver BC



The Clive Justice New Member Book Awards were awarded at the 2006 BCSLA AGM luncheon. Cedar Crest Lands (B.C.) Ltd. have generously supported the BCSLA New Members Book Awards since 2000. Over the past four years 24 new Members have been recipients of the books that have been sponsored by Cedar Crest Lands (BC) Ltd. and the BCSLA



Mark Vaughan completed his term as BCSLA President by presenting the Talking Stick to new President Pawel Gradowski.



The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects welcomes the new members, from left to right: Cecilia Achiam and Meredith Mitchell, with Clive Justice. Back Row left to right are: Doug Shearer, Adam Vasilevich, Allan Moors, Steve Clarke, Timothy Dobson, Linda Neilsen, Dave Snider. Welcome also to new members who were unable to attend the AGM: Liz Balderson, Fiona Chamberlain, Tanya Goertzen, Steve McLeish, Scott Murdoch, Song Ae Sim, Greg Stewart and Sui Ki Woo.

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