

SITELINES

Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



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Sitelines is published six times per year; February, April, June, August, October, and December by the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects and is mailed to all BCSLA members, registered landscape architects, associates and affiliates. the editorial deadline is the 8th and advertising is the 16th day of the intervening months. Advertising rate information is available on request. Inquiries regarding editorial, advertising, or other issues should be addressed to the Sitelines Editor, c/o the BSCLA at the above address.

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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.

Old Havana

BY PAWEŁ GRADOWSKI, MBCSLA

Havana used to be called the Paris of the Antilles. For close to 500 years, Havana has had some great moments of glory. The wonderful and unique character of its architecture has placed this city on a UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. Today, Old Havana may be considered a symbol of fallen splendour and human despair. Some may say that it is beyond repair. Others are struggling to protect whatever is still standing. It is a race of time between the forces of nature and the desperate measures taken by some Cubans to preserve their city. Havana got caught in a nasty web of international politics and economics that led to its destruction within just few decades. Seeing all this, one may start pondering about the complexity of sustainability issues and how much of this sustainability depends upon world economics and how much upon human spirit.



Stone sculpture in Old Havana, photo: Pawel Gradowski

The City of Havana was founded in 1515 and by mid Eighteenth Century it had grown to be the third largest city of the Americas, providing home for 70,000 people. Architects from all over the world were invited to Havana to design the city's buildings to be both aesthetically pleasing and to withstand the devastating forces of hurricanes in this part of the world. The city was well built with quarried stone blocks and clay shingle rooftops in



Baseball among the ruins, photo: Pawel Gradowski

predominantly three or four storey structures. Buildings were constructed with great attention to details, with floor mosaics, sculpted stone ornaments, elaborate carpentry for doors and windows and absolutely exquisite ironwork for gates, and balustrades facing the streets. Many buildings also had well developed plumbing and storm water collection systems installed.

In the Nineteenth Century, Havana became a very fashionable and well developed city, where the rich and famous of the world enjoyed its hospitality and

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Old Havana

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ever growing popularity. It was believed that this city had a great future for many years to come. When the US took over Cuba at the end of the Nineteenth Century from Spanish colonialists, Havana became, in a short time, the world capitol of entertainment, full of casinos, hotels, and nightclubs. One may compare the popularity of Havana from the 1930's to the current reputation of Las Vegas in Nevada.

In the second half of the Twentieth Century, things went horribly wrong for the City. Since 1959, world politics have placed Cuba in a conflicting position with the United States; which has led to an economic embargo being imposed by Washington towards the communist government of Cuba. The collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990's, which for many years supported the Cuban government, eventually led to a current lack of funding and the ill economy of this country. This consequently resulted in a total destruction of a significant portion of this wonderful city. In a relatively short time, a lack of proper maintenance has led to a gradual decay of Old Havana. Today, only a small fraction of the buildings are being maintained and the rest are falling apart at an accelerating speed. Several structures are already beyond repair. Free standing facades of buildings that have already lost their roofs and floors are slowly crumbling down, showing empty lots where children play baseball with a broomstick and a



*Weathered Doorway,
photo: Pawel Gradowski*

bottle cap. Walking through the streets, I felt that Old Havana is held together only by a thin piece of wire that will rust through and let go at any moment.

What is amazing, in this place of unpredictable changes, is the human spirit that keeps people believing that the splendour of the past will come back, and that this is just a temporary stage of affairs. People hold on to the ruins, repair and maintain whatever they can, considering the lack of funding. All restored buildings are provided with new functions, such as: art galleries, museums of all sorts, schools, restaurants, hotels, etc. However, several of these civic functions are not providing sufficient income and they usually require more funding for maintenance than revenue can generate. This is not only a problem for Havana; but for nearly all heritage sites in the world, which have to rely on tourism or wealthy sponsors to supplement restoration and maintenance funds. Considering the politics of the world, the global economy, new changes in the environment threatening Cuba with longer and more devastating hurricane seasons, as well as construction practices of the past that did not foresee today's air pollution easily dissolving the coral rocks used as building material, Havana is facing an extremely difficult path to survival. Some

say that it is already too late; while others keep trying and do not want to give up. A majority of Cubans that I met while wandering through the streets proudly face the realities of everyday life and concentrate on their own survival. Many look for opportunities to supplement their income; but equally spend time with friends and family laughing, playing dominos, and sharing the goodness of their hearts with people all around.

One thing we can learn from Havana's history is that sustainability issues are far more complex than we can imagine. It is not only issues such as air pollution, climate change, or societal collapse that is destroying this city. I believe that probably the most significant factor causing today's fading away of Old Havana are the consequences of one philosopher's ideas for human equality, written over a hundred years ago, that resulted in today's divided world of politics and economics and which, for political reasons, is now causing a collapse of Cuba's cultural achievements renowned throughout the world. I hope that it is not too late to preserve what is left of this wonderful city and that one day we will be able to see the return of the splendours of Old Havana that Cubans still remember and strongly believe in.

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Clouds of Change

BY GORDON PRICE

There is a dead Catalpa tree next to the seawall at the entrance to Stanley Park, blown over in the December windstorm. It was only one of ten thousand downed trees, but because of its size, beauty and location, it became a symbol of a moment when a paradigm shifted. People made the connection: climate change had to be taken seriously. The time of doubt, deny, delay had passed.

Was the windstorm a manifestation of climate change? No one could say for sure; but it was consistent with predictions of more extreme events. The media reframed the story: Stanley Park was a victim of climate change. Actually, Al Gore had reframed the issue in *An Inconvenient Truth*. And then came the reinforcements: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Stern report, enlightened business leaders, and so many admonitions from David Suzuki that the politicians had no choice but to take the issue seriously. To doubt, deny or delay now would reveal an unacceptable heedlessness at a time when the public demanded a serious response.

And so came the serious response. In March, the British Columbia Throne Speech laid out the challenge of a thirty-three percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020. It was an extraordinary target, accompanied by a list of actions sufficient to surprise the critics. Serious commitment to that target remains to be seen, as is the public's willingness to accept tough choices; but if not now, then eventually.

The windstorm was what I would call a Katrina event: a sudden, savage manifestation of nature that cuts through the intellect and reaches the soul. It does in an hour what a decade of gradual change could not. Only in the last few years, for instance, has the proliferation of the mountain pine beetle been seen as a consequence of warm winters, in turn connected to climate change. That, until recently, was one connection too many. For so long, "global warming" and "beetle infestation" never



A fallen Catalpa in Stanley Park, photo: Gordon Price.

appeared in the same paragraph. It is going to take a while longer for the next links in the chain to be forged. The people of the Okanagan will soon start to see a dying forest surround them, likely half the surrounding hills will turn a ghastly red. How long to make connections to gas pedals and thermostats, to a way of life almost wholly dependent on an ever-growing supply of securely-provided, always-affordable hydrocarbons?

Since we in British Columbia live in one of the best places on Earth (the propaganda is true), this energy-dependent way of life is not something too many would give up willingly. No politician says he or she will make our lives more austere for our own good. We all hope the technological rabbit will be pulled out of the hat, as it has so many times before. But people will likely respond to the need for more intervention the more that climate change threatens. Each time a Katrina event occurs, it will be easier to achieve tomorrow what seems so unlikely today. What is needed now is preparation for the change.

We need lots of scrupulous, reliable information and observation: nature's collaborative evidence. Examples of successful adaptation from elsewhere can be useful. Even catastrophe scenarios have their place, for imagining how we'd allocate resources if we had the right answers when the questions are urgent. Decisions-makers will shove money down the throat of those who can lead when no one else is ready to respond.

It goes without saying that knowledge helps, and knowing the people who know is sometimes even more helpful. At the City Program at Simon Fraser University, we are partnering with our colleagues, particularly the Centre for Sustainable Community Development, to develop new courses in sustainability so we can provide mid-career professionals with what they need to know, in a way they can assimilate, and at a price they can afford.

When we asked around about what we should put in such a program, we were told that teaching sustainability really wasn't about information downloading; it was about teaching people from a multitude of disciplines, each in their own silo, how they can jointly solve problems. In other words, it was about making connections in complex environments. What, for instance, does a landscape architect or urban planner do when dealing with conflicting tensions not only among their colleagues in government and business but also among the public? Those who desire salvation but not austerity make for a slightly tougher issue than green roofs.

People want dreams of something better, and it's quite possible to change their perspective on what constitutes something better, particularly if it's also more affordable. An example is EcoDensity, the City of Vancouver's new initiative to extend the lessons of the last two decades into the leafier neighbourhoods. Patience helps. Yes, we may all be doomed in ten years; but you have to get the timing right. When I was on Vancouver City Council, we initiated the "Clouds of Change" task force, in 1991, to prepare a municipal response to climate change. It was a great report, but a decade early. If someone had told me the 1990's would be symbolized not by sustainability but by the SUV, I'd have feared for our future. Now there are devastated forests at our doorstep, and the message is getting through. Now the job is to teach people from a multitude of disciplines, each in their own silo, how they can jointly solve the problems of our time to give us hope for our future.

Gordon Price is Director of the City Program at Simon Fraser University, Continuing Studies.

Smart Growth Meets Landscape Architecture

BY ANDRÉ VALLILLEE

Smart Growth, Design, and Community Identity

Communities throughout British Columbia are striving to balance demands for growth with the need to maintain a healthy quality of life for citizens and to preserve the natural environment. Issues ranging from the protection of green space, enhancing local economic development opportunities, ensuring housing affordability and increasing transit options represent just a few of the common challenges facing communities. On the ground such matters garner both support and criticism and almost always lead to debate between various stakeholders in a given community. The key then is to search out avenues for collaboration in community planning and neighbourhood design, where different ideas and visions are presented and common goals are identified.

Since 1999 Smart Growth BC has been working in communities throughout the province to advance fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible land use and development. Working with community groups, businesses, municipalities and the public, we advocate for the creation of more livable communities in BC. Our research, outreach and implementation programs, such as Smart Growth on the Ground, the Voter Education Campaign, and the Community Assistance Program, have assisted thousands of citizens in over 75 communities around the province in advancing innovative development. However there is more to 'smart growth' than simply placing priority on infill, redevelopment, and densification strategies. Indeed, some of the key smart growth principles include a vision for growth that is consistent with local character and builds upon the heritage of the region.

For instance, "Fostering a unique neighbourhood identity" is key to growing

smart, sustainable communities. This approach recognizes that each community or neighbourhood possesses unique characteristics connected to local social, economic, and environmental systems. The emphasis is on identifying these existing features and strengthening them through appropriate design principles. This core smart growth principle compliments an established history of contribution from architects and designers to the fabric of our built environments.

Another smart growth principle, "Preserving open spaces, natural beauty, and environmentally sensitive areas" requires that development respect natural landscape features, resulting in higher aesthetic, environmental, and financial value. Innovative land use professionals have worked with this principle to create alternative development standards, green infrastructure and approaches to site design that acknowledge the ecological limits to growth and encourage cultural diversity.



Perspective for Noisette, Charleston, South Carolina, image provided by André Vallillee

Partnerships in Practice: Smart Growth on the Ground

In recent years, a partnership between the Design Centre for Sustainability at UBC, the Real Estate Institute of BC, and Smart Growth BC has been developed to demonstrate the opportunity for supporting innovative, cross-sector approaches to sustainable community design and construction.

The collaboration, known as Smart Growth on the Ground (SGOG), began in 2003 with a vision to transform sustainable community design and construction in BC from the exception to the norm.

Fundamental to this vision was an approach to community design and planning processes based on five key factors:

- ¥ **Principles.** SGOG is founded on a set of principles that encourage smarter development - socially, environmentally, and economically.
- ¥ **Process.** The SGOG process emphasizes meaningful involvement by everyone. The planning process in each community includes public input and an inclusive, collaborative "charrette" event.
- ¥ **Charrette.** The charrette is the focal point of Smart Growth on the Ground. During the charrette - as the plan is created - economic and market analyses ensure it is practical.
- ¥ **Practical Research.** We are still learning how to build more sustainable communities, so cutting-edge research is needed to address specific local issues around land use.

- Getting it “On the Ground.” The ultimate goal is to build real examples of sustainability. After the charrette, the SGOG team helps revise the development rules and regulations, to ensure that construction projects will match the vision. The team can also connect the community to future research partners and funders, continue the education process, and review development applications for catalyst projects.

To date SGOG has worked in three communities - Maple Ridge, Squamish and Greater Oliver. In each of these communities SGOG helps prepare unique neighbourhood plans that put sustainability at the core of land use, while respecting local and regional heritage and character. SGOG provides extensive follow-up support to ensure that each plan leads to results on the ground. The high demand by communities from across the province to be involved in the SGOG process is an indication of its great success.

Developers Leading the Way
Leading by example, pushing the boundaries of what is possible, and taking the risks necessary to build more complete communities, requires courage, vision and commitment. This kind of leadership and initiative exists both here in BC and in various other parts of the world. Whether it is the Docks Green development in Victoria or Newport Village in Port Moody, such

innovative development projects illustrate a range of BC-based opportunities for growth with social and environmental dividends.

If we look to our colleagues in the United States, we find several inspiring examples of vibrant, mixed-use developments that combine the place-based values of design with the principles of smart growth. One development that stands out is Noisette - a 3,000 acre 'city-within-a-city' located in North Charleston, South Carolina. Originally home to one of the US's largest and most active Navy bases, the community has been undergoing significant change since the base was closed in the mid-1990s. While this event led to economic downturn it also left behind a significant number of empty buildings and underdeveloped land and set the basis for the launch of the innovative Noisette project.

The Noisette project is a product of a five year planning process. The Master Plan maps out an integrated approach to restoration that preserves heritage buildings, encourages neighbourhood diversity, and supports the existing unique social fabric.

A significant component of the project involves the restoration of local natural systems such as the tidal marsh and surrounding watershed, the reintroduction of native plant species, and innovative runoff systems such as water-filtering bio-swales and pervious areas. Existing rail lines are to be converted to multi-purpose greenways in

an effort to provide natural links between neighbourhoods and local destinations like the Cooper River.

The Noisette project's vision and commitment to balancing social, economic and environmental values is being recognized and awarded. In 2005 the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) conferred the Analysis and Planning Award of Excellence for the Noisette Master Plan for its innovative approach to integrated community restoration.

Smart Growth BC is delighted that John Knott, President and CEO of the Noisette Company, will be coming to Vancouver to deliver the keynote address at our fourth annual conference: *Building Complete Communities: Developers Leading the Way* on Friday June 1. We invite you to join us at this exciting event and to celebrate excellence in leadership and innovation in pursuit of smarter, more sustainable communities.

Please visit our website at www.smartgrowth.bc.ca to find out more about our organization, Smart Growth on the Ground, and our upcoming conference.

André Vallillee, MA (Planning), is the Conference Coordinator at Smart Growth BC, a non-profit organization with a province-wide mandate to create livable communities by promoting fiscally, socially, and environmentally responsible development.

*Smart Growth BC will be holding our annual conference, *Building Complete Communities: Developers Leading the Way*, at the Marriott Pinnacle Hotel in Vancouver on Friday June 1. The event will focus on the challenges and solutions for building complete communities in British Columbia. For more information and to register online, please visit our website at www.smartgrowth.bc.ca*



Perspective for Noisette, Charleston, South Carolina, image provided by André Vallillee

Tree Canada BY MICHAEL ROSEN

The idea of urban forests is probably still a mystery to most Canadians. Forests, in the popular imagination, are outside of our towns and cities. They are where the moose and bear live - "the land of the silver birch and home of the beaver".

Of course, to landscape architects reading this article, urban forests constitute a vivid and present reality. They are also, to a large extent, the forests that most matter to the 80% of Canadians who live in urban areas, whether they are aware of it or not. As most landscape architects know, urban forests are: the parks Canadians play in, the riverbank paths or ravines they cycle or jog along, and the tree-lined streets where they live, if they are lucky enough. They are essential to a healthy urban environment, and in this time of increased awareness of the threat of climate change, they are vitally important as one positive way of reducing the impact of greenhouse emissions.

Just as British Columbia is home to some of Canada's most economically important wild, rural forests; so it is home to some of the country's most magnificent urban forests. Just think of the many parks along the British Columbia coast. These were some of the first efforts in Canada to incorporate forest elements into a planned, urban environment. For generations they have not only been a symbol of British Columbia; but they have been a place of refuge and peace, of social gathering and recreation, and even of worship.

When violent weather devastated many of the trees along the coast, in December of 2006, Tree Canada was there, with the help of many individuals and Shell Canada to help raise funds to restore and replant. That is typical of the valuable activities that Tree Canada undertakes in British Columbia and throughout Canada including the recovery from the 1998 Ice Storms in eastern Canada, Hurricane Juan in Halifax and the Kelowna Fires of 2003.

But when it comes to the urban forests of Canada, Tree Canada has a much more fundamental role. Tree Canada is the only national, Canadian organization with overall responsibility for the urban forests across the country. Tree Canada acts as the Secretariat for the Canadian Urban Forest Network (www.cufn-rcfu.ca), that body which works with the people who practice urban forestry to help develop their expertise, to keep them in touch with each other's work and with best practices in their profession, and to advocate for Canada's vital urban forests.

There was once a comedian whose signature line was: "I can't get no respect!" That could well be the lament of Canada's urban forests and the dedicated people who work in them. In a country where we are entranced by the idea of our six time zones and the seemingly unending tracts of wilderness and forests of all kinds, it is easy to overlook the forests in our settled areas, even if that is where most of us live. It is easy to give short shrift to the trees that line our streets, provide shade in our school yards and make unique spaces such as Stanley Park the treasures that they are.

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Tree Canada

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In fact, it was only quite recently, in 1974, that the term “urban forest” was coined by a Canadian - Dr. Erik Jorgensen. The unavoidable fact of the matter is that proper management of urban forests is essential to sustaining healthy communities. Urban forests benefit the environment, of course. But they are also important for the psychological and spiritual well-being of city and town dwellers. At a very basic level, they help make towns and cities places of beauty, and in enhancing the quality of urban life they make a great contribution to the economy.

On the environmental front, the urban forests provide habitat and food sources for wildlife, help assure cooler watercourses, mitigate noise and dust levels, improve air and water quality, absorb pollutants and - at the top of the mind these days - “sequester” carbon, or, to put it more simply, capture harmful greenhouse gases.

Tree Canada has been taking a leadership role on the urban forest front since 1994. Our Green Streets Canada program has benefited many British Columbia communities by awarding innovation in urban forest management. That includes strategic forest plans, planting, maintenance and educational efforts. B.C. Hydro is one of the principal sponsors of Green Streets. British Columbia communities that have recently participated include: Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Prince George, Cowichan Tribes/Duncan on Vancouver Island; and North Vancouver.

As well, our sponsorship programs in British Columbia have been very successful and diverse. They include:

- ¥ IKEA sponsored school greening, habitat restoration and park beautification projects including a planting project in Stanley Park this year with IKEA employees;
- ¥ INTERFOR provided hundreds of thousands of free seedlings forestation projects -- “community plantings” where citizens received seedlings to plant in their

- own yards or in neighbourhood parks;
- ¥ Gap and CHC Helicopters supported school ground greening and park beautification activities
- ¥ Kinder-Morgan and Home Hardware sponsored greening efforts in various B.C. communities.

Among Tree Canada's urban forest initiatives in British Columbia is the Surrey Arboretum Restoration Project. The Arboretum is better known as the Green Timbers Urban Forest. It is an historic site - the first attempt at reforestation in British Columbia. It goes back to the 1930s when a square mile of what had once been a majestic stand of giant trees was replanted, and protected from development. Over time, urban sprawl and its accompanying roads and highways, nibbled away at the original site. It took a hard-fought referendum in the late 1980s to save what is now Green Timbers for future generations.

Tree Canada's contribution to Green Timbers is to help fund the maintenance of the trees. *Continued on pag 10*

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Tree Canada

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It's not the sexiest part of the urban forest enterprise; but pruning, watering, cabling and mulching are essential to the survival in this sort of environment.

Tree Canada is active in British Columbia in many other ways. We have even played a role in battling the mountain pine beetle infestation. We helped the city of Prince George, through Green Streets Canada, in its efforts to combat the infestation in its own urban forest. We also hosted the very successful Canadian Urban Forest Conference in Kelowna, in 2004.

We think we can continue to work effectively together with the landscape architects of British Columbia. To cite one example: Will McKenna of the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department has worked closely with one of our Tree Canada Community Advisors, Paul Skydt, on a number of site habitat restoration projects. Our other Adviser, Christian Walli works hard to ensure that Tree Canada's programs in northern B.C. are well received.

Landscape Architects have valuable skills and experience to offer in the constant struggle to preserve, create and enhance urban forests. Tree Canada provides its own expertise and a Canada wide network. We are both part of the same adventure and have a lot to learn from each other!

Michael Rosen is the President of Tree Canada



Light House

BY HELEN CARRUTHERS

The Light House Sustainable Building Centre is an enterprising non-profit society dedicated to advancing and catalyzing sustainability in British Columbia's built environment. The society's approach is to develop and disseminate high-quality, neutral and unbiased advice and information on everything from green building products and practices to service providers. Located on Granville Island, Light House offers a range of free and fee-based programs and services out of its 1,300 square foot office, resource and display centre.



Purposes of the centre include:

- A) To provide a first stop integrated service shop that connects British Columbians with the inspiration, information, services and skills they need to implement sustainable building solutions.
- B) To facilitate and accelerate market transformation and economic development activities for the sustainable building cluster in British Columbia.
- C) To provide education, training and outreach programs that will foster a deeper awareness of and commitment to sustainable building practices.
- D) To support and advance public sector programs and private sector initiatives through community engagement, research, partnership development, technical assistance and consulting services.

The Light House Resource Centre

Light House's resource centre is the place to find out about sustainable building practices, policies, and projects and to connect with the experts that can help make projects greener and healthier. The centre includes a bookstore, resource library, product library, and rotating exhibition space.

Market Transformation and Economic Development

With the help of various funders and partners, Light House spent the year 2006 documenting the green building landscape in the Lower Mainland, BC and developing recommendations for green building market transformation and economic development. Through 2007, Light House will publish four green building market insight reports targeted to organizations that want to stay on top of the rapidly evolving green building industry and those that are investing in green knowledge, services or products. The Market Insight Reports will describe industry performance and growth, provide insight into barriers and highlight investment opportunities. They will also showcase the relevant regional educational offerings, R&D activities, and government programs and policies, both current and planned. The first report will be released on April 18th, the second in early June. In addition to these Market Insight Reports, Light House will release two Special Market Intelligence Reports in 2007. Report One, due for release in May, will focus on green building consultants, including landscape architects, architects, engineers and interior designers, while report Two will focus on green real estate, including realtors, appraisers, and investors. For more information, or to subscribe to Light House Market Insights, please contact: matthewz@sustainablebuildingcentre.com

Education and Training

Each Saturday a different green building professional is invited to Light House to speak about his or her area of expertise and answer questions from the general public. Seminar topics range from rammed earth building to net zero energy homes and sustainable communities. For more details on the series and upcoming speakers, check out the Light House events calendar at: www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com/event

The Landscape Urbanist Reader

REVIEW BY ADRIENNE BROWN, MBCSLA

The Landscape Urbanist Reader brings together fourteen theorists and their writings on the topic, nearly a decade after the term was coined by Charles Waldheim at the University of Chicago. Since 1997, landscape urbanism has held the attention of a notable group of scholars and designers around the world, and this book explores a number of ideas surrounding the ongoing discourse. Two of the major themes running through the collection are the idea that the landscape is moving into a starring role in urban development, along with the proposition that the new discipline has the potential to synthesize nature and culture in urban development in ways that landscape architecture has failed to do over the last century.

In the opening essay, James Corner describes landscape urbanism as an approach that emphasizes the complexity of physical processes through all phases of design. He also argues that its success will depend on whether it can function effectively in the context of contemporary development practices, and whether it can engage the collective imagination. Charles Waldheim follows this up with examples of initiatives that are harnessing process to support evolving programs and activities, concluding that projects such as Fresh Kills and Downsview Park are triggering a shift in both disciplinary and professional alignments.

The idea of focusing on process as opposed to form in landscape planning and design forms a common thread in this book, along



with the notion of embracing programmatic indeterminacy as a response to post-modern culture, and the development of an ecology that treats all forces and agents as part of a continuous network of inter-relationships. This approach represents a shift in emphasis from formal design, to one that supports *Continued on page 12*



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The Landscape Urbanist Reader

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and celebrates continuous dynamic change and operational logic. With this in mind, landscape urbanists are pursuing the idea of Datascape, or designs that embody a visual representation of all measurable forces, including legal restrictions, regulations, and mapping dynamics.

In his discussion of the emergence of landscape urbanism, Grahame Shane emphasizes the importance of responding to large scale urban morphologies, and argues that the advent of fragmented low density development calls for a systemic approach to site planning that responds to the porous character of a diffuse landscape. Julia Czerniak points out that the design of an individual site is at odds with understanding it in the context of larger processes, and expands on this idea with a discus-

sion of Hargreaves Associates designs for Byxbee Park in Palo Alto, and the Guadalupe River in San Jose, as well as Peter Eisenman's and Laurie Olin's design for Rebstockpark in Frankfurt.

Other topics in the reader include French philosopher Henri Lefebvre's analysis of urban space as a site for the reconciliation of agendas associated with nested scales of organization, and Rem Koolhaas' notion of "metropolitanism" as a totally fabricated world where any number of opposing views can co-exist. Alan Berger's essay on Drosscapes explores the impact of simultaneous deindustrialization and urbanization, and the difficulties designers continuing to have in influencing market driven development. This is followed by a provoking perspective on how trade patterns create urban form. The essays also feature an engaging story of the development of asphalt technology, and its tremendous influence on the development of the built landscape. As Christophe Girot puts it, the

challenge lies in dealing with landscapes that are colliding relentlessly with the harsh imperatives of land value, development, and mobility, with the urban site emerging from successive layers of decisions that rarely have anything to do with each other.

The second major theme in this collection is the idea that landscape architecture has failed to reconcile the city with nature, and that it has maintained a binary conception of past and present, town and country, and that nature remains "a moral antidote to urbanization". Richard Weller suggests in his essay 'An Art of Instrumentality: Thinking through Landscape Urbanism', that landscape architecture's "bilateral crisis" stems from its inability to synthesize planning and design activities. He goes on to propose that it is theoretically prepared to heal this divide by hybridizing natural and cultural systems on a global scale. The hegemony of architecture and engineering is cited as one of the main obstacles to the establishment


Continued on page 15


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The Landscape Urbanist Reader

- continued from page 15

of the new discipline, along with the idea that territoriality as instrumental in the dilemmas faced by urban designers.

This book provides insights into the work produced by a number of progressive international design practices, with the authors also stressing that urban designers, architects, and landscape architects all continue to struggle in the face of the existing institutional hierarchies that dictate the form of development. This latter issue is critically important, however it raises the question of whether the problem is with professional identities, or whether it is more a matter of society failing to incorporate the goals associated with landscape urbanism into the fabric of established authority, and the many associated rules and regulations.

The essays in the Landscape Urbanism Reader touch on many of the ideals

associated with landscape architecture at its best, and in doing so, it makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing discussion. However, they do not explain how the continued promotion of landscape urbanism as a separate discipline supports the efforts of practicing landscape architects to

strengthen their points of engagement with the development industry.

The Landscape Urbanist Reader
Charles Waldheim, Editor
Princeton Architectural Press, New York,
2006, 293 pages

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BCSLA Calendar of Events

April 12	BCSLA Continuing Education Seminar, Richmond, BC
April 13-14	BCSLA Annual Conference and Trade Show Toward the Green Horizon, Richmond, BC
April 14	BCSLA Annual General Meeting, Richmond, BC
April 17-20	PIBC Annual Conference, Kelowna, BC
April 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
April	BCSLA Board of Examiners Spring Sitting
May 22	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
June 3-6	IFLA International Conference, St. Petersburg, Russia
June 11-12	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams, Vancouver, BC
June 26	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 24	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 31	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline
August	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting
August 15-19	CELA Conference, Pennsylvania, USA
Sept. 18-20	C/LARE (Computerized Landscape Architectural Exams)
Sept. 7-8	CLARB Annual General Meeting, Cleveland, OH
Sept. 12-13	BCLNA CanWest Hort Show, Vancouver, BC
September 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October	BCSLA Board of Examiners Fall Sitting
October 5-9	ASLA Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
October 10	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams (LARE) Candidate Order Deadline: December 2007 Sitting
October 23	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October 31	2008 Sitelines Annual Update Submissions
November 8	World Town Planning Day
November 22-23	BC Landscape and Nursery Association AGM
November 27	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 3-4	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams, Vancouver, BC
December 7	BCSLA Festive Season Party (Date Tentative)
December 18	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 31	BCSLA 2008 Membership Dues Payable
December 31	BCSLA Continuing Education Form Submission Deadline

SITELINES

— Editor Required

Sitelines, Journal of the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects, invites applications for the position of Editor. Chart new directions in green architecture, environment design, and the evolving profession of Landscape Architecture. Assemble drawings and photographs of compelling design projects to follow a course from conception to completion. Champion proper punctuation.

Sitelines is published six times per year: February, April, June, August, October and December by the BCSLA. The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture.

With each issue, the role of the Sitelines



The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects held a successful Congress 2007 in Havana, Cuba, from February 28 to March 3. The theme was Landscape Synergy: An exchange of Culture, Ideas and Opportunities. Photograph by Pawel Gradowski.

Editor includes the following sequence:

A) cajole BCSLA members to submit work for publication, B) solicit BCSLA Board reports, with the Advertising Editor, C) edit articles submitted, D) select images to accompany articles, E) assemble an article sequence, F) prepare new articles or images, as may be necessary, G) compose titles and captions, H) send contents to our intrepid Graphic Artist, I) review a Draft layout, J) approve a final Proof for printing and

Literature is landscape on the desk and landscape is literature on the earth.

- Chang Ch'ao

delivery, K) Sitelines is then mailed by the BCSLA to 500 members and subscribers.

The Sitelines Editor is an advocate for the profession of Landscape Architecture in British Columbia. Part diplomat, part grammarian, part designer, the Sitelines Editor also requires a sense of humour to appreciate the effects of Murphy's Law. A cooperative approach is required with Contributors, Graphic Designer, Advertising Editor and Printer. The editing process is accomplished principally by email and a familiarity with Word, and Photoshop programmes is most helpful. Allow for twelve hours of creative work per issue.

*Laura-Jean Kelly & Cameron Murray
Sitelines Co-Editors*

Stanley Park Restoration Stakeholders Committee

I, Ken McKillop, MBCSLA, am pleased to represent BCSLA on the Stanley Park Restoration Stakeholders Committee. This committee is constituted to provide Vancouver Park Board with input and guidance from knowledgeable interested parties on its approach to repairing the damage done by the December storms. The committee has representatives from BCSLA, the Vancouver Natural History Society, Parks Canada, the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition, the Vancouver Heritage Commission, Stanley Park Ecology Society, and Squamish First Nations Band. Our discussions to date have ranged from the vision statement for the restoration to practical aspects of interim traffic management for safe use of the park by pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, cars etc.

Park Board has initiated a public consulta-

tion process through a telephone survey, newspaper and website surveys. Park Board staff is preparing a Restoration Plan to be presented to Park Board for approval in Mid April. The plan will provide an underlying philosophy and direction to Park Board for the restoration work. Further detail will be developed as geotechnical information, etc. become available.

To date the on-site efforts have concentrated on reopening trails and making them safe by limited spiral thinning and removal only of trees hazardous to workers. The slope and seawall between Siwash Rock and Prospect Point awaits careful removal of downed trees to provide safe access for geotechnical evaluation.

Staff is drawing on technical support from consultants, including archeologists, ecologists, and geotechnical engineers.

BCSLA has been asked to provide volunteer assistance with one aspect of the restoration guidelines, that is a philosophical and practical approach to the newly created openings and views from the road near Prospect Point. Should the area be reforested to eliminate these views or should the storm-created views be treated as an opportunity? We are invited to provide recommendations regarding potential view cones at this location. I anticipate this will involve a meeting at the site sometime in April with Parks staff to discuss the issues, and formulation of a recommendation by BCSLA.

The BCSLA Board has asked me to select a few landscape architects for this discussion. If you are interested, please contact me at 604 684-4611 (Fax 604 684-0577 or ken@dki.bc.ca).

International Garden Festival

The 8th edition of the International Garden Festival celebrates sound, one of the essential yet frequently overlooked senses in the garden experience. To be held from 23 June to 30 September 2007, this edition includes fourteen outstanding contemporary gardens by designers from France, Germany, the United States, Québec and Ontario.

Launched in 2000, the International Garden Festival takes place on a site adjacent to the historic gardens. A unique forum for innovation and experimentation, the Festival presents temporary gardens created by Québec, Canadian, and international designers. This artistic event allows visitors to discover inspiring spaces bringing together the visual arts, architecture, design, the landscape, and nature. Since its inaugural edition, the Festival has won several awards, including the National Post Design Exchange Awards, the Grand Prix du tourisme québécois, and the Société des musées québécois prize for the best exhibition. In addition, numerous gardens have received awards from the Institut de Design Montréal (IDM), the Ordre des architectes du Québec, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Canada Blooms, and the Design Exchange. For further information, visit www.refordgardens.com or call (418) 775-2222.

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VIA Architecture Urban Design Lecture: Landscape, Waste and Urbanization May 23, 7-8:30 pm

Venue: SFU Vancouver, Harbour Centre,
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

To reserve: email cs_hc@sfu.ca
or call 604.291.5100

Alan Berger scans the globe with camera and insights into contemporary development-your guide to a vast, largely ignored field of waste landscapes and to the new chaotic urban landscapes in the emerging world. Expect a radical reconceptualization of your thinking. Alan Berger is Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design. Author of *Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America* and *Nansha Coastal City: Landscape and Urbanism in the Pearl River Delta*.

CSLA Election for President-Elect

CSLA needs you to exercise your vote for our candidates for CSLA President-Elect. The CSLA nominating committee announced last month that two CSLA members have agreed to stand for election of the next President-Elect of the CSLA: Robert Norman (OALA) and Cathy Sears (AALA).

Statements of interest from all candidates have been forwarded to all members and are also posted to the CSLA website at www.csla.ca. Please make your vote count. The announcement of the results of the election will take place at the CSLA AGM on May 5, 2007 in Ottawa.

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