



CIVIC HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE

MAY 17, 2013: THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, PHILADELPHIA, PA

PRESENTED BY: THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION & PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WITH SUPPORT FROM: LANDSCAPE FORMS

Abstracts

Setting the Stage: History and Issues

David B. Brownlee

Green (Gridded) Town

For more than three centuries, Philadelphia has been defined by its strong landscape geometries, and these changing shapes have reflected our ideals. Today's city is a palimpsest of what we have thought in the past. Still visible are the imprints of the Enlightenment anti-medievalism of William Penn, the more traditional preferences of the settlers he recruited, the physiocratic notions of the founders of the American republic, the picturesque tastes of the Victorian era, the progressivism of the City Beautiful Movement, the abstraction of the International Style, and the contextualism of the "Philadelphia School." Today, as Penn's "Green Country Town" embraces another kind of greenness, the powerful forms of its planning history and the ideas that inspired them are still alive, in both our memories and everyday experiences

Panel 1: The Street

Moderator:

Harris M. Steinberg, FAIA

The Street

The relationship between streets and open space enjoys a privileged place in Philadelphia's history - dating to William Penn's and Thomas Holmes' seminal *Portraiture of the City of Philadelphia* first published in London in 1683. The Enlightenment-era portraiture, or plan of the city, depicted a rational grid of streets across two square miles which was punctuated by five public squares. These streets and squares gave Philadelphia its ineffable character and distinctly human scale - together they established the template for the best of Philadelphia's urbanism for over three centuries.

Today, Philadelphians are building on this legacy of the interrelationship between the street and horticulture. From the recently completed Race Street Pier, an early action of the recently-adopted master plan for the Central Delaware, to *Green2015*, an action plan to add 500-acres of open space to Philadelphia by 2015 to meet a sustainability goal of the current mayoral administration, streets are increasingly understood as integral players in linking people, communities, economies and ecologies in a post-industrial city working to redefine itself for the 21st century.



sustainable and healthy state. The essential “invisible” street tree components will be explored within the context of the evolution of horticultural provisions and accommodations that address contemporary economic, regulatory, realities of maintenance and the influence on street tree planting intelligence.

Panel 2: The Productive Garden

Moderator:

James F. Lima

The Many Forms of the Productive Garden

After WWII, food production as integral to cities disappeared with the growth of globalized industrial food systems. But increasingly across the country, the “agropolis” is back.

This presentation will set the stage for this panel discussion by looking at how productive gardens take many forms, considering the various entity structures that operate and maintain them. Productive gardens are public, private or quasi-public places. Some are small neighborhood plots designed and maintained in a participatory process. Others have emerged within formal campus settings overseen by universities or public housing authorities. Elsewhere, planting beds on the rooftops of sprawling industrial warehouses are a prized local source of fresh produce, equal (r)5(si)-91.2ir small iutrces.



farming enterprises. Presented projects will include Orange County Great Park, a metropolitan park, Jordan Downs, a federal housing project, and the Natural History Museum, an urban laboratory and civic space. Working at multiple scales and with multiple partners, we are able to seek solutions that capitalize on and inspire policy while promoting access to good food and public health continuing to build upon and re-imagine victory gardens as a way for communities to join together and provide for themselves. We take a holistic approach creating an interconnected platform for the built environment.

How do we transform and interconnect people, infrastructure, relationships, policies and sustainability into a new kind of urban ecology that favors urban agriculture? How do we deal with the long term impact of this new urban food model? What will these types of interventions yield; greenhouses perched on the top of every skyscraper, vertical farming mammoths, privatized land banks, or democratized plots of land running through our cities? What IS the future of urban agriculture?

Thomas L. Woltz, FASLA

The Productive Garden: From City Beautiful to City Functional

From the Victorian Era through the City Beautiful Movement and into the Era of Ecology, the productive garden has played a variety of roles from the Ferme Ornee to Victory Garden and on to the Farm to Table Movement. This presentation will posit the next step in Civic Horticulture might be named the "City Functional Movement", one that operates at the scale of performative urban landscape systems.



