



LEADING WITH LANDSCAPE II: THE HOUSTON TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE  
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## Chapter Two: Looking Forward

Moderator:

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Oil & Water

According to the Regional Plan Association, most of the nation's future population and economic growth is expected to occur in eleven megaregions, that is, large networks of metropolitan regions. Houston is the only city to fall into two megaregions—the Texas Triangle and the Gulf Coast—and with an abundance of oil and water in both, the city faces considerable opportunities and significant challenges ahead.

While the presence of oil typically brings wealth and economic strength to a region, the detrimental impacts of the environmental costs associated with extracting it from the ground and the boom and bust cycles caused by its ever-fluctuating prices can be equally taxing. Water, too, poses its own problems—overabundances cause flooding while shortages leave large areas drought-stricken for long periods of time. Poor land-use and design decisions only serve .9(t)-6 —



For Houston, the creation of an entirely new botanic garden offers a unique opportunity to acknowledge this traditional role, but redefine it for the 21<sup>st</sup> --

Within this context West 8's Master Plan for the Houston Botanic Garden aims to transform 120-destination for Houstonians and visitors alike. When the golf course was built in the 1920's, its site was a rural suburb to an urbanizing Houston that was experiencing accelerated growth. A natural bayou snaked its way through the course, until the 1980's when the Army Corps of Engineers ~~the Garden's wide mission neighborhood is the natural assets and challenges of the site context and~~ considered a wide mission neighborhood is the natural assets and challenges of the site context and developed successional strategies that transform the golf

archetype of the collection garden g a world-addressing how the Master Plan botanical research? Can the Garden industry? The Houston Botanic landscape.

Douglas Reed, FASLA, RAAR R The succession of extreme drought the region's changing climate. The This master plan and site design Architecture, with Lake Flato Architecture, with Lake Flato Architecture. The project reconciles a community values and vision. The resultant ~~the landscape goals~~ of the property, which incorporates establishment of prairie, savanna

