William Lucy

Lawrence Lewis Jr. Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning

"Three Questions and Their Significance for the Future of Cities, Suburbs, and Exurbs"

Rampant exurban sprawl dominates news media coverage of metropolitan trends. These trends are among the challenges the U.S. faces in adapting to nonrenewable energy depletion and limiting global warming. Revival of old neighborhoods and central cities also has been occurring. These two trends—exurban sprawl and city revival—occurring simultaneously characterize the current unique era in metropolitan evolution. Adding widespread suburban decline to this picture produces a kaleidoscope of confusing images that challenge efforts to synthesize and interpret them. I will describe these potentially conflicting trends, try to discern consistent causes, project and predict the future, and suggest key roles for planners, designers, preservationists, and historians.

Lisa Reilly

Associate Professor of Architectural History

Dean Abernathy

Assistant Professor of Architecture and Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH)

"Subtle Additions: Developing a Model for Design Process Analysis at Southwell Minster"

This presentation discusses the ongoing research of the two-year fellowship awarded to Lisa Reilly in 2006 by IATH.

The fact that Gothic architecture in England is chiefly represented by additions to Romanesque buildings is widely acknowledged, yet the implications of this observation for the design process have not been analyzed. In our design process analysis we studied the degree to which the physical structure of the extant Romanesque fabric had a determining effect on the form of the later Gothic addition. The initial case study of this project is a multi-dimensional dynamic model of Southwell Minster. The model makes possible a detailed study of changes in structure, proportion, light and sound. The archaeological information needed to build the model will be integrated with contemporary cultural materials such as program, patronage and external stylistic influences to create a holistic study.

Faculty Research Symposium VII

09.07.07

Moderator: A. Bruce Dotson

12:30PM Karen Van Lengen
"Back to School and Hearsay Project"

1:15PM Ethan Carr
"Modernism and the Public Park"

1:45PM Kristina Hill
"Flow Cities: The ecological waterfront"

2:15PM Break

2:30PM Lucia Phinney
"Infrastructural Membranes"

3:00PM William Lucy
"Three Questions and Their Significance for the Future of Cities, Suburbs, and Exurbs"

3:30PM Lisa Reilly + Dean Abernathy
"Subtle Additions: Developing a Model for Design Process Analysis at Southwell Minster"

University of Virginia School of Architecture > Campbell 158

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A. Bruce Dotson **(Moderator)**

Associate Dean for Academics and Associate Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning

Karen Van Lengen

Dean and Edward E. Elson Professor

"Back to School and Hearsay Project"

Continuing the research and development that resulted from the MIX HOUSE Animation and Installation in Germany and L.A. this past year, the next project, entitled "Hearsay", (developed this spring with Joel Sanders New York) is a concept design for the Naug Lounge in Campbell Hall. In this project we explore a redefinition of public space by developing an audio/visual interactive program with the aim of sponsoring dialogue and communication in a public institutional setting. We consider how today's new crop of mobile audio-visual digital devices are ushering in a new set of sensory and spatial relationships. No longer tethered to a static interior location, wireless devices enable mobile subjects to freely roam the built environment, both inside and outside, in real time and real space as they interact with others in remote places. Here we argue that the untapped potential of these new devices, if creatively integrated within the built environment, can yield a full-bodied multi-sensory experience that can be shared with others in lieu of their current status as "isolators". In developing a potential for dialogue and debate we anticipate the flourishing of an enriched local culture and its significant imprint on the ongoing process of democracy.

Ethan Carr

Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture

"Modernism and the Public Park"

Demographic and economic trends in the United States during the postwar period created expanded, lower density urban patterns, as is well known. Less examined is the extent to which these trends resulted in significant change in the design, meanings, and justifications of public parks. In the 1950s municipal park departments struggled to adapt older park systems to changed social contexts. Their regional counterparts tried to redefine the role of the park in the expanding megalopolis of highways, shopping centers, and tract subdivisions. In 1956 the National Park Service attempted to meet the challenges of the postwar era through a ten-year, billion-dollar expansion and modernization of the national park system ("Mission 66"). At the same time, planning and design professions adapted to the influence of European modernism and responded to the opportunities created by new typologies of design commissions, new programs for parks and park systems, new clients, and changing government policies. New books by Reuben Rainey and Anita Berrizbeitia indicate the importance of public park designs of the period by Robert Royston and Roberto Burle Marx, respectively. My own work

[Carr cont.]
on National Park Service design of the 1950s further indicates how diverse park design ideas became by the end of the decade. Important issues in park design and management today— such as the increased role of the private sector, the mandate to make use of scientific data, and the development of new (post-Olmstedian) design theory and idioms all have roots in the postwar era.

Kristina Hill

Director of the Program in Landscape Architecture and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture

"Flow Cities: The ecological waterfront"

Urban waterfronts have played major roles in urban culture and commerce, both historically and in recent decades. The biological potential of the nearshore urban environment has been little known, however, and has only recently become a design goal. Very few cities have designed their waterfronts to reveal and support flows that influence the distribution and abundance of marine organisms. Yet the survival of many economically and culturally significant species depends upon the landscape ecology of shallow marine and freshwater environments, and these areas are increasingly impacted by urban expansion. To complicate matters further, changes that are predicted for global storm and rainfall patterns within the next decades will place increasing stress on the functional role of waterfronts and the capacity of urban infrastructure generally. The question I have been asking in my recent design scholarship is, what representational and spatial strategies could address these challenges in ways that are functional, socially equitable, and poetic? Seattle's urban waterfront provides a useful example, but my interest is in developing strategies that could be used from Seattle to San Diego and New Orleans to Newfoundland.

Lucia Phinney

Distinguished Lecturer in Architecture

"Infrastructural Membranes"

Infrastructural membranes are operable and interactive, with networks of climate, program, data, and human sensors that actuate motion and illumination. They are thin, colorful, translucent, and/or fluid/stiff/stretchy. Infrastructural membranes perform to reflect, deflect, or capture the sun's energy; to moderate, concentrate or collect the convective energy of wind; to absorb, exclude, collect or evaporate moisture; and to define insect-free territories. Simultaneously lasting and ephemeral, they are foliated to leverage wild energies and new technologies in layers and semi-enclosures of thermal comfort.With a fundamentally new engagement with the elements and with the site, and new potential relationships among people using such a construct, an urbanism formed of these materials can entirely transform and expand the fields of architecture and landscape design.