Designing and Planning the Edible City: Visions from Canada

Ryerson University
Centre for Studies in Food Security & The Department of Architectural Science
Dr. Joseph Nasr & Dr. June D. Komisar

Vancouver

City Farmer
reinventing residential yards and streets
Vancouver

Mole Hill

reinventing residential yards and streets

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Wally Satzewich and Gail Vandersteen (Saskatoon)
Wally’s urban Market

Roxanne Christensen (Philadelphia) co-founder and
President of the Institute for Innovations in Local Farming.

Spin Farming
http://www.spinfarming.com

reinventing residential yards and streets
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

“Sub-acre farming turns empty lots and underused yards to use. City growing provides a more controlled environment, with fewer pests, better wind protection and a longer growing season.”

Spin Farming
http://www.spinfarming.com

reinventing residential yards and streets

Vancouver

Community Garden on former railroad land
The Sharing Farm

neighbourhood initiatives
Vancouver-- My Own Back Yard Community Association

neighbourhood initiatives

My Own Back Yard Community Association

neighbourhood initiatives
Planning for a Healthy Food System:

Collaboration between Public Health and Planning in the Region of Waterloo, Ontario

From a presentation to the Architecture and Food Conference
May 3, 2008

Marc Xuereb, Region of Waterloo Public Health
John Lubczynski, Region of Waterloo Planning
Go to www.region.waterloo.on.ca/ph (click on Heath Status and Research Studies under Resources, then Food).

Slides by Marc Xuereb and John Lubczynski
Countryside Line

- Hard-edge urban growth boundary
- Contain urban sprawl
- Protect farmland for long-term use

Collaborative efforts

Slides by Marc Xuereb and John Lubczynski

Neighbourhood markets

Collaborative efforts

Slides by Marc Xuereb and John Lubczynski
Elmira Produce Auction
an initiative of farmers who sought government help to establish a wholesale produce auction. This became one stop shopping for urban retailers, restaurants, etc.

more support for farm businesses

Slides by Marc Xuereb and John Lubczynski
support for access to healthy food

Urban Agriculture  Roof Top Gardens

collaborative efforts

Slides by Marc Xuereb and John Lubczynski

The Green Arts Barn, Toronto
Joe Lobko, Architect

multipurpose designs
The Green Arts Barn, Toronto
Joe Lobko, Architect

Multipurpose designs

Includes a centre for arts and culture, neighbourhood recreation and artists housing, and The Stop Community Food Centre: a 10,000 sq. ft. sustainable food production (including an orchard) and education centre.
Ground Floor Plan

The Green Arts Barn, Toronto
composting, greenhouse, offices, classrooms, commercial kitchen, farmers’ market, bake oven, exterior sheltered garden with potting bed
The Green Arts Barn, Toronto

Images from Joe Lobko & www.anewpark.ca
The Stop Greenhouse in the Green Arts Barn, Toronto

Brickworks, Toronto

multipurpose designs
Images from Joe Lobko

multipurpose designs

Brickworks, Toronto
Farmers' Market

multipurpose designs
On land that was once the site of a brick manufacturing plant is a large park with bike paths, trails, activities, and soon, a farmers’ market, a teaching greenhouse, allotment gardens, facilities to house non-profit organizations, arts organizations, and a skating facility in winter.
Making the Edible Campus, Montreal

The Minimum Cost Housing Group

“Making the Edible Campus (MEC) is an action-research project that showcases ways to weave productive planting into urban spaces without diminishing their utility or functionality while exploring strategies for increasing food production in the city and improving spatial quality by exploiting underutilized spaces.

The Edible Campus forms a part of an urban food chain: the organic harvest is walked or cycled to Santropol Roulant’s kitchen, where it is transformed and prepared meals are delivered to clients who have mobility impairments; breaking their social and economical isolation.”

The Edible Campus is a cooperative project of The Minimum Cost Housing Group (McGill University), Santropol Roulant and Alternatives (local NGOs).

opportunities: underutilized spaces

Montreal

The Rooftop Garden Project
Alternatives

http://www.santropolroulant.org
And http://www.alternatives.ca

opportunities: underutilized spaces
opportunities: underutilized spaces

Commercial developments to enable lightweight rooftop gardens

Commercial Rooftop Gardens for Restaurants: The Royal York Hotel rooftop garden, Toronto
opportunities: underutilized spaces
Southeast False Creek, Vancouver
SEFC Urban Agriculture Study for Vancouver

- Reduce energy and material consumption and the production of wastes;
- Preserve the viability of ecosystems and halt the loss of biodiversity;
- Ensure economic viability and vitality;
- Strengthen social networks and enhance the quality of life for all in the neighbourhood

From SEFC Urban Agriculture Study
Objective #7: Increase the technical capacity, skills and knowledge of all stakeholders especially relating to novel urban agricultural systems.

Southeast False Creek, Vancouver
SEFC Urban Agriculture Study for Vancouver

50 acres of city-owned land and 30 acres of private land. Much had been used industrially, which contaminated the soil.
Southeast False Creek, Vancouver
SEFC Urban Agriculture Study for Vancouver

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<td>Production for immediate family, zero waste</td>
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large-scale projects
Southeast False Creek, Vancouver
Urban agriculture study for Vancouver

Parc Downsview Park, Toronto
Parc Downsview Park, Toronto

The site is a former aircraft manufacturing facility for World War II planes and a military airfield. Currently it is the location of film studios, indoor sports facilities, and an airplane museum. It will become a large urban park with new residential and commercial developments, a park “promenade,” forested land, a “cultural campus”, and a “cultivation campus”.

The “Cultivation Campus” has the potential to incorporate:

- productive landscaping
- allotment gardens
- greenhouses
- farmers’ markets
- productive green roofs
Parc Downsview Park, Toronto

The “Cultivation Campus”

Megan Albinger's vision
adaptive reuse greenhouse fusilages

large-scale projects

Parc Downsview Park, Toronto

The “Cultivation Campus”

Ben Gaum's vision of connected greenhouses, a farmers' market, and cistern by the adaptive reuse of airplane fusilages.

large-scale projects
Parc Downsview Park, Toronto

Precedent: Inuvik Community Greenhouse, Northwest Territories (68th parallel)
Conversion of an arena.
(source: SEFC urban agriculture study, 2007)

Urban Agriculture in the Residential Zones

Mole Hill, Vancouver

large-scale projects
Conclusion

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