Concept

Join a landscape architect, architect, planner, and urban designer as they discuss the flaws in our food system and how site specific and regional projects can provide long term, sustainable solutions.

Learning Objectives

1. Through case studies, learn how local and small scale food and agriculture projects can make a big impact in addressing the problems with the national food system.
2. Understand the role of design in local food production and the relationship with community development, education, urban vacancy, and public health.
3. Explore metrics used to evaluate the benefits of agriculture in relation to energy systems, community development as well as economic and public health.

Biographies

Gail Sullivan is the Managing Principal of Studio G Architects, which she founded as Gail Sullivan Associates in 1993. Gail is passionate about people-centered, sustainable design. A decade of work in non-profit organizations shaped Gail’s skills for engaging people in the design process and interpreting clients’ goals into a design vision. Encompassing building design, urban design and community planning, her goal is to create beautiful, healthy places that transform lives and build sustainable communities. She integrates landscape into every building project. One that integrates urban agriculture, The Boston Latin School Sustainable Roofscape Community Learning Center, was featured on NBC’s Today Show and NBC Nightly News.

Justin Hollander, PhD, AICP, is an Assistant Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University and a Research Scientist at the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University. He is the author of Sunburnt Cities: The Great Recession, Depopulation and Urban Planning in the American Sunbelt (Routledge, 2011) and two other books examining the challenges of planning for post-industrial, shrinking cities.

Kubi Ackerman, LEED® AP has been conducting design-based research at Urban Design Lab since 2007. At the UDL Kubi has worked on several food systems and urbanization projects, including efforts to curb childhood obesity and assess New York City's regional “foodshed.” He is currently managing a project to evaluate the capacity of New York City for urban agriculture. Kubi has been involved with other projects including the rezoning of 125th Street in Harlem, a study of urban development patterns in the Hudson River Estuary, and designs for park infrastructure to increase physical activity and economic development in northern Manhattan. Previously Kubi taught and worked at the Salvadori Center, City College of New York, developing design and architecture-based curricula for public schools in New York City.

Edward Krafcik, ASLA graduated from Rutgers University, Cook College in 2010 and has a passion for agriculture. Prior to joining Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture, Edward worked for Design Workshop in the Aspen office. His work included projects ranging in scale from regional master planning to residential garden design. Edward managed a design for a residential garden and greenhouse that challenged what could be produced at 8,000 feet above sea level. The program of the garden and greenhouse included a series of passive, interrelated systems to meet energy code as well as a permaculture-driven crop production schedule to maximize the nutritional output of the allotted square
footage. His current work includes residential garden design and commercial development in Boston and California.

Outline

1. Introduction of Panelists

2. Agriculture in the town and city
   a. The importance
   b. The rewards
   c. The challenges

3. Justin Hollander
   a. City scale thinking
      i. Land vacancy in the shrinking city
         1. Challenge and opportunity
            a. Farm it!

4. Kubi Ackerman
   a. The potential for urban agriculture in NYC (Columbia Urban Design Lab)
      i. What does it take to grow food in the city?
         1. Soil
         2. Space
         3. Water
         4. People
      ii. What are the benefits of agriculture in the city besides food?
         1. Economic growth
         2. Public health
         3. Energy
         4. Stormwater
         5. Community
         6. Education

5. Gail Sullivan
   a. Designing and implementing the roof top garden
      i. The look, feel, experience, educational value and production capacity
   b. Multi-beneficial agricultural project outcomes
      i. Reduce emissions, offer new opportunities for scientific study, demonstrate micro environments and test new green roof systems
      ii. Create a successful model for efficient and substantial yield food production on roof tops

6. Where do we go from here?
   a. How can landscape architecture assume a leadership role in creating a sustainable and just food future?