GeoDesign: A New “Old” Approach to Design

“Geodesign is a design and planning method which tightly couples the creation of design proposals with impact simulations informed by geographic contexts.”
Michael Flaxman, 2010 Geodesign Summit

"GeoDesign is both an old idea and a new idea..." "It's timeless."
“GeoDesign is designing with nature in mind.”  Jack Dangermond

“Geodesign requires collaboration among the design professionals, geographical sciences, information technologies, and the people of the place.”

Outline:
1. Overview and Introduction (Hadley-Moderator)
   a. GeoDesign defined
   b. Evidence of GeoDesign establishment
      i. Annual Summits
      ii. Academic programs emerging
2. GeoDesign in context (Tulloch)
   a. Roots in landscape architecture
   b. Multidisciplinary by nature
   c. Rapidly emerging resources
3. GeoDesign in action (Pitt)
   a. Rural multifunctional landscape design
   b. Using GIS in design studios
   c. Lessons learned from studios
4. GeoDesign in education (Phillips)
   a. MS in GeoDesign at Philadelphia University and BS in GeoDesign at USC, various certificate programs
   b. Academic and institutional barriers to moving ahead
5. Wrap-up and panel discussion (Hadley)

Resources:

Bibliography:

GeoDesign Summit (Videos of presentations):
http://www.geodesignsummit.com/
Panelists:

Doug Hadley, ASLA  
Geodesign Certificate Coordinator  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
http://la.wisc.edu/  
dbhadley@wisc.edu

Doug received a BSLA in Landscape Architecture from Rutgers University and MA in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Doug has been an instructor with the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin - Madison for more than a decade. He teaches Introductory Landscape Architecture Design Studio, Survey of Landscape Architecture, Landscape Inventory and Evaluation Methods, and Regional Design. For the past year he has been part of a campus committee which is creating an online geodesign certificate program. Doug worked with Taliesin Preservation, Inc. for seven years, working on and cultural and natural resource preservation and planning for the National Historic Landmark Taliesin Estate. While with Quinn Evans Architects, Doug assisted in the development of plans for several National Park Service properties. Doug's interest in landscape architectural design is broad and includes the use of Geographic Information Systems in the design, planning, and management of the landscape.

David Tulloch, Ph.D., ASLA  
Associate Director  
Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
http://www.crssa.rutgers.edu/  
dtulloch@crssa.rutgers.edu

David Tulloch (B.S.L.A. Kentucky; M.L.A. LSU; Ph.D. Wisconsin) is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Associate Director of the Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. While at Rutgers, Dr. Tulloch served nearly a decade as the undergraduate program director for Environmental Planning and Design. Dr. Tulloch’s scholarship is built around bridging between geospatial technologies and applications of these for the improvement of the built landscapes. He has also served on Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board visiting teams and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science board. His high-profile blog, Places and Spaces, was featured recently in Landscape Architecture Magazine.

David G. Pitt, PhD, FAICP, ASLA  
Co-editor of Landscape Journal  
University of Minnesota  
http://landarch.design.umn.edu/people/pitt.html  
pittx001@umn.edu

David Pitt has worked with The Metropolitan Council, the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota Legislative and Citizen’s Commission on Minnesota Resources and the UMN Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to develop a landscape assessment process that local governments can use to facilitate smart growth in an environmentally responsible way. With UMN colleagues, Professor Pitt is developing
a systemic approach to GeoDesign, which integrates spatiotemporal modeling of landscape performance. A recent grant from the USDA-Conservation Innovation Grant program facilitates application of this work to the collaborative design of multifunctional landscapes in the Minnesota River valley. With internal UMN funding, Pitt and his colleagues are constructing a GeoDesign decision lab to examine the presentation of information, group dynamics, and social and individual learning affecting outcomes of landscape performance. He also uses geographic information systems in the offering of studio courses in Environmental Planning and Regional Design in the UMN Urban and Regional Planning degree program and the Department of Landscape Architecture.

Claudia Goetz Phillips, Ph.D., ASLA
Philadelphia University
http://www.philau.edu/msgeodesign/
PhillipsC@philau.edu

Dr. Claudia Phillips is associate professor and founding director of Philadelphia University’s undergraduate landscape architecture program and its new MS in GeoDesign program. Previously, she chaired and was a faculty member of the MLA program at Morgan State University in Baltimore. Dr. Phillips is a Founding Council Director for the National Academy of Environmental Design, a CELA Past President, and served on the State of Maryland Governor’s Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities. Her recent publications include, “Park West: Green Trails Initiative: Final Report,” “Integrative sustainable design curriculum models,” and “Socioeconomic, community-based approach for developing integrated mass transit systems as applied to Baltimore City.”