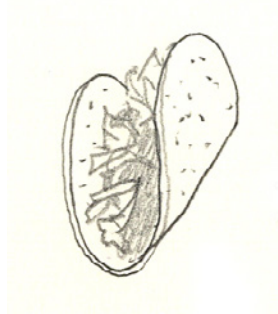


Letting the Streets Win: Saying No to Donuts



Presenters

Rodrigo Abela, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP BD+C

Nate Cormier, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP

Shannon Nichol, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP, HonAIA

Moderator

David Malda, LEED AP

Description

Streets and pedestrians lose ground when individual project sites become the boundary for design. Many city leaders encourage distinct development projects, but this practice prioritizes individual “block wrappers” (donuts) over street legibility and continuity. A discussion of recent project examples will make the case for designing streets as two-sided spaces for movement and activation.

Learning Objectives

- Question piecemeal development of the public realm; examine relationships between individual properties and the street
- Identify landscape architects' role in transforming streets into an active and accessible public space
- Identify current trends in public improvement requirements that sometimes favor amenities over continuity
- Explore several recent projects that advance the idea of the street over individual development projects

Session Outline

Introduction

Shannon Nichol and David Malda

- The Evolution of a Street
- Why Streets Lose
- A Framework for Streets that Win

Case Study 1: The Block Supports the Street, The Street Shapes the Block

Rodrigo Abela: 1401 Wilson, Roslyn VA

Project Description: Two block mixed-use development with streetscape, public garden, and mid-block pedestrian connection.

Key Strategy: Landscape architect advocated the potential of the street to reconfigure a large mixed-use development

Case 2: Reframing the Street as a Park

Nate Cormier - Bell Park Street

Project Description: Four-block park project and shared space encompassing the entire street right-of-way

Key Strategy: Landscape architect designed a hybrid between park and street to safely expand the public open space use of a street while maintaining vehicular functions

Case 3: Establishing the Street as the City's Great Public Space

Shannon Nichol - Pike Pine Renaissance

Project Description: Design guidelines for new development of over 65 acres of streets in downtown Seattle

Key Strategy: Landscape architect applies site-specificity to structure a large-scale framework of standards that gives priority to streets and is implementable over time.

Moderated Discussion

Presenter Bios

Rodrigo Abela, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP BD+C
Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

Rodrigo Abela is a principal of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol. His award-winning work is recognized for its striking clarity in form, materials, and purpose. A passion for the arts, combined with an interdisciplinary background in engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture enriches his perspective of landscape design and collaboration. Rodrigo is currently responsible for handling the majority of GGN's east-coast projects including CityCenterDC and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, as well as the winning design for the National Mall Design Competition for Union Square.

Nate Cormier, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
SvR Design Company

Nate is a Principal Landscape Architect at SvR in Seattle. He has been in practice for 15 years and received his MLA from Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Nate's work ranges from urban parks and trails to streetscapes and mixed-use environments. Inspired by the deep history of sites and their potential to serve contemporary users in more ways, Nate is particularly focused on the intersection of the public realm and public works. Stakeholders value his sincere approach to community involvement and his enthusiasm for dynamic public places. Nate also teaches and writes about the aesthetic dimension of landscape performance and is active on the boards of the Seattle Architecture Foundation, the Landscape Architecture Foundation and the Green Seattle Partnership.

David Malda LEED AP
Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

David's interdisciplinary background in architecture, landscape architecture, art history, and community development inform and motivate a dedication to public space as it manifests itself in physical places. David's work experience ranges from large-scale post-industrial sites to small-scale design-build and digital fabrication projects. In 2009 he was named the National Olmsted Scholar by the Landscape Architecture Foundation and currently serves on LAF's Board of Directors.

Shannon Nichol, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP, HonAIA
Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

Shannon Nichol is a founding principal of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol. From Millennium Park's Lurie Garden to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Campus, Shannon's designs are widely recognized. An honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, her work has received multiple Design Excellence and Honor Awards from ASLA and AIA. In 2011, Shannon and her partners received the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Landscape Architecture.