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PERSPECTIVES

FRI-B03 Designed Ecologies: An Interdisciplinary Discussion

Friday, November 06, 2015 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Room E350, Level 3

Allegra Bukojemsky, ASLA, Wildlands (moderator)
Keith Bowers, FASLA, Biohabitats, Inc.
Steven I. Apfelbaum, Applied Ecological Services, Inc.
Chris Guillard, ASLA, CMG Landscape Architecture

Integrating natural systems into urban design is gaining prominence. But what does it take to integrate ecological systems in urban and postindustrial landscape designs? This panel brings together diverse disciplines to discuss key elements, changing trends, lessons learned, and the challenges and joys of collaborating on integrated ecology projects.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about key components and consideration for integrating natural systems in formal designs.
- Learn about the importance, value, and complexities of designed ecologies in landscape design.
- Learn about collaborating with ecologists and ecological designers on integrated ecology projects.

Key Points:

- Ecology, especially ecological process, needs to be part of the project's goals and objectives in order to be successful.
- Consider all facets of ecology: structure, function, and future adaptation/evolution.
- Include the project ecologists in the development of the project goals and objectives.
- Include an ecologist as early as possible in the project, they are especially critical during site analysis.
- Be able to express and discuss design intent to enjoy successful collaboration with ecologists (as well as other disciplines).
- Most integrated ecology projects are built in novel, highly constructed environments, so it is important to carefully analyze the environmental conditions and influences on the system. There are often no reference systems to use for comparison.
- The project design technically only constructs the structure or framework that will (hopefully) facilitate the development of the ecological function.
- Most integrated ecology projects are implemented at a relatively small scale which can make functional success and adaptation challenging.
- Establish clear monitoring, maintenance, and management goals and procedures to make sure the ecological function is not maintained out of it.
- Dream big, but be careful you don't sell something that you can't deliver (that's not ecologically possible on the site).

Reference & Resource Material

Books:

Apfelbaum, Steven I., and Alan Haney. 2010. **Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land**. Washington, DC: Island Press. Island Press Amazon

Apfelbaum, Steven I., and Alan Haney. 2011. **Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land Workbook.** Washington, DC: Island Press. Island Press Amazon

Beck, Travis. 2013. **Principles of Ecological Landscape Design** Washington, DC: Island Press. Island Press Amazon

Caro, Tim. 2012. **Conservation by Proxy, Indicator, Umbrella, Keystone, Flagship, and Other Surrogate Species.** Washington, DC: Island Press. Island Press Amazon

Dramstad, W. E., Olson, J. D., & Forman, R. T. T. 1996. **Landscape ecology principles in landscape architecture and land-use planning.** Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Island Press Amazon

Howell, Evelyn A., John A. Harrington, Stephen B. Glass. 2012. **Introduction to Restoration Ecology.** Washington, DC: Island Press. Island Press Amazon

Perlman, D. L., Milder, J. C., & Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. 2005. **Practical Ecology for Planners, Developers, and Citizens.** Washington, DC: Island Press. Island Press Amazon

Reed C, Lister N-M. 2014. **Projective Ecologies**. New York: Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Actar Publishers. Amazon

Skabelund, Lee R., G.M. Kondolf, Craig W. Johnson, and Allegra Bukojemsky. 2008. **Successful Ecological Restoration: A Framework for Planning/Design Professionals.** Washington, DC: American Society of Landscape Architects Landscape Architecture Technical Information Series 2. ASLA-LATIS

Society for Ecological Restoration International Science & Policy Working Group. 2004. **The SER International Primer on Ecological Restoration**. Tucson: Society for Ecological Restoration International.

Journals:

Ecological Restoration Journal http://uwpress.wisc.edu/journals/journals/er.html

Restoration Ecology Journal www.ser.org/resources/resources-detail-view/restoration-ecology-journal

Organizations and Websites:

California Society for Ecological Restoration (SERCAL) www.sercal.org
Conservation Corridor http://conservationcorridor.org
Ecological Landscape Alliance www.ecolandscaping.org
Ecological Society of America (ESA) www.esa.org
International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) www.landscape-ecology.org
Society for Ecological Restoration www.ser.org
The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) www.sustainablesites.org