PUBLIC SPACE PROTOTYPES: TEMPORARY PARKS TRANSFORM THE CITY

Pop-up parks (which use simple, inexpensive elements to activate public spaces temporarily) have recently become a staple of summer in the city and are attracting attention nationwide. Join three designers and an architecture critic for a discussion about the pop-up phenomenon and the design of temporary places.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Learn how 3 diverse temporary public spaces were designed and installed.
• Gain insight into the unique opportunities and constraints of designing temporary installations.
• Examine the differences/similarities and the pros/cons of the case study pop-ups.
• Understand the impact of the case study projects for the communities of Philadelphia and Camden.

MODERATOR | INGA SAFFRON

Inga Saffron is the architecture critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer. For nearly 15 years, she has written a weekly column called Changing Skyline that offers an insightful look at the urban design issues facing Philadelphia. She is the winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Criticism and has been a finalist three times since 2004. Inga spent the 2011-12 academic year as a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, exploring issues relating to place-making, alternative transportation and rammed-earth construction. Her writing has appeared in the New Republic, Metropolis, Dwell, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Texas Architecture and the Architects Newspaper.
CASE STUDY
SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK | GROUNDSWELL DESIGN GROUP

Spruce Street Harbor Park exemplifies tactical urbanism through low cost interventions along Philadelphia’s Delaware River Waterfront. This public park is a destination for locals and tourists alike through its wide-range of food, beverage, and passive recreational activity options.

DAVID FIERABEND, ASLA is founder of Groundswell Design. Before establishing the multidisciplinary studio in Philadelphia in 2007, Fierabend enjoyed a 16-year retail career serving the CBDs of Northeastern cities.

Fierabend’s second act combines his urban revitalization work with a lifelong passion for the outdoors, by specializing in tactical interventions like the widely acclaimed Spruce Street Harbor Park. Groundswell has activated numerous urban spaces with Harbor Park client Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, as well as Philadelphia’s Center City and University City districts, according to principles of locality and dynamism. The firm also applies this approach to an extensive hospitality portfolio.

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CASE STUDY
THE EVOLUTION OF THE OVAL | LRSLA

Started in 2014, on a shoe-string budget, the Oval has become a popular summer destination along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. LRSLAstudio contributed to the success of the Oval by designing programming elements that activate the space, providing entertainment for all ages. Since its first year, the budget has more than doubled, with the City raising money from sponsors attracted to the exposure gained from the Oval’s popularity.

JULIE A. BUSH, ASLA is a Principal at LRSLAstudio in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Julie has worked on numerous projects in and around Philadelphia, including improvements to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the Porch at Amtrak’s 30th Street Station, and the I-676 Bridge Replacement Project, which includes new parks fronting the former Family Court Building and the Free Library. Julie is actively involved in many community organizations and loves improving the place where she lives, works, and raises her family. An avid cyclist, Julie enjoys biking to work, no matter what the weather.

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CASE STUDY
ROOSEVELT PLAZA PARK AND THE POP-UP POOL PROJECT | SIKORA WELLS APPEL

At Roosevelt Plaza Park, an iterative placemaking process has brought two seasons of pop-up style amenities to downtown Camden, NJ. The experimental development of the park allowed the public to test-drive improvements and helped the design team find out what works here and what doesn't.

The Pop-Up Pools Project uses inexpensive and easy to implement temporary improvements to make Philadelphia’s public pools better places to meet and interact with neighbors and friends.

JOSEPH T. SIKORA, RLA, ASLA brings over 30 years of experience in planning, landscape architecture and urban design to his role as president of Sikora Wells Appel. His design approach is informed by a site’s context and ecology, a community’s history and culture and the regional connections and impacts. He has been involved in an array of project types including campus planning for universities and corporations; public parks, greenways, and recreation facilities; public gardens, and urban spaces. His work strives for innovative and timeless solutions with a focus on creating socially and ecologically sustainable places.

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