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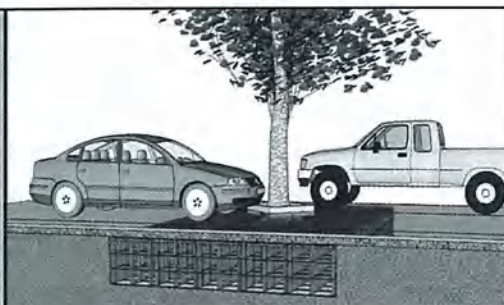


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JAMES R. TAYLOR
GUEST EDITOR | RÉDACTEUR INVITÉ



LA's IN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

International service is an emerging area of practice that is offering new career and personal outreach opportunities for landscape architects in Canada. In compiling this issue of LANDSCAPES | PAYSAGES, we were amazed at the level of activity within our ranks. We adopted a broad view of international service, and had no problem overfilling our pages with stories profiling the contributions that Canadian landscape architects are making worldwide. Our experiences span the globe from many corners of Africa – Uganda, Madagascar, Namibia and Mediterranean Africa – to the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

Many of us who do international service work share similar motives. I believe that Natalie Walliser, a recent University of Guelph BLA graduate who travelled to Namibia, expressed it best in her early letters to us. "My role as an aspiring landscape architect was to ensure sensitive environmental design, preserve cultural heritage, respect the integrity of local people and create a vision for the village of Otjimbingwe," she wrote. I think these values resonate throughout this issue.

Enjoy the trip.

PHOTO NATALIE WALLISER

Check **THE LAST WORD**, page 46, for Natalie Walliser's story of Otjimbingwe, Namibia.

LES AP AU SERVICE DU MONDE

Être au service du monde est une nouvelle façon d'exercer notre profession qui offre des occasions de rayonnement aux architectes paysagistes canadiens. Lors de la préparation de cette livraison de LANDSCAPES | PAYSAGES, nous n'avons pas pu nous empêcher de noter ce niveau étonnement important d'activités au sein de nos rangs. Avec la vision mondiale que nous avons adoptée, nous n'avons éprouvé aucun problème à garnir nos pages d'articles faisant état des contributions des architectes canadiens dans différents coins de l'Afrique – Ouganda, Madagascar, Namibie et l'Afrique méditerranéenne, jusqu'aux Antilles, en Amérique du Sud et en Europe.

Pour bon nombre d'entre nous qui faisons carrière à l'échelle planétaire, nous le faisons pour des raisons semblables. Natalie Walliser, fraîchement diplômée de l'Université de Guelph en architecte paysage qui s'est rendue en Namibie, exprime ceci avec brio dans une récente lettre qu'elle nous a fait parvenir. « Mon rôle en tant qu'aspirante architecte paysagiste consiste à m'assurer que les aménagements de cadre de vie fragiles permettent de conserver le patrimoine culturel, de respecter l'intégrité des gens du coin et de créer une vision pour le village Otjimbingwe », écrit-elle. Je crois que ce numéro reflète admirablement bien ces valeurs.

Bon voyage !

N'oubliez pas **LE MOT DE LA FIN**, à la page 46, pour lire l'article de Natalie Walliser sur le village de Otjimbingwe en Namibie.





1



2

version française sur www.aapc.ca

DIFFERENT STRIPES | VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE

GO "GLOCAL" WITH IFLA DÉCENTRALISER AVEC LA FIAP

JAMES TAYLOR

For over 40 years, we've been reminded to "Think Globally, Act Locally", and we've taken it to heart. Our knowledge of crucial global issues has encouraged us to take concrete action here at home. In this time of climate change, food shortages, high energy costs and continued unrest around the world, we need, more than ever, to integrate an understanding of the "big picture" as we develop our planning and design solutions. Our local decisions are increasingly informed by global concerns.

At the same time, Canadian landscape architects are now extensively practicing internationally. At a recent roundtable held in Toronto, there was a consensus that international practice was the fastest growing area of practice for Canadians. We are, indeed, acting globally. This phenomenon might suggest that we need to turn the dictum on its ear, and "Think Locally, Act Globally".

GLOCALIZATION DEFINED

To capture this changing reality, Randy Hester coined a new word, *glocalization*, in his recent book, *Design for Ecological Democracy*. He advocates an integrated way of thinking, which incorporates a holistic world view and broad knowledge of the ecological and human condition. As we develop networks of communications that include local knowledge and ecological thinking, our approach to practice will be neither local nor global. It will be glocal.

GOING GLOCAL

I am personally in my fourth incarnation of practice. My first work experience was in public practice as a student intern in a park agency. I moved on to private practice in Western Canada for almost 20 years, then on to academic practice at the University of Guelph. Now, I am immersed in something I call international service – an opportunity that came along through my involvement with the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA).

As the Canadian delegate and former Vice President of the Americas Region, I was exposed to the state of the profession internationally. It was clear that interest in international work is growing, and that interest often has a service bent. Students, recent graduates and practitioners are working as volunteers with church groups and other non-governmental organizations, or as employees with government for the Canadian International Development Agency, or through professional organizations that have international mandates.

My international service has been channeled through IFLA programmes focusing on four areas: capacity building, work with international agencies, educational support, and building the profession in Africa. In all these initiatives I have tried to advance the notion of glocalization.

Glocalization clearly acknowledges the fundamental importance of the values and methods we develop locally, well before we take our practice to the international arena. Last May at the Landscape Futures Symposium sponsored by the Landscape Architecture Foundation in Charleston, South Carolina, our working group began to use the term *our landscape architecture* to recognize that the North American brand of our profession may be unique. In approaching international service, bringing *our landscape architecture* to other countries or regions may require rather dramatic adaptation. I offer the following case studies.

1. TEACHING THE TEACHERS IN BRAZIL

In 2002, the Brazilian Association of Landscape Architects together with Dr. Paulo Pellegrino at the University of Sao Paulo, approached the IFLA with a proposal. The country's future architects needed training in landscape architecture. Brazil has over 100 schools of architecture, but core courses in landscape architecture were rarely available. Brazilians clearly understood they must build capacity in landscape architecture if they were to meet the country's environmental needs.

FINDING THE MONEY

My job, as Chair of the Education Committee, was to advance the proposal through the IFLA Executive. We were successful, and UNESCO in Paris provided funding.

Setting up the programme became the next challenge. Where would we find the teachers to teach the teachers? I placed a call for interested North American instructors in landscape architecture through the Council of Educators in

Landscape Architecture (CELA). The response was tremendous. Twelve professors from Canadian and American universities signed on, and the course was announced, country-wide, in Brazil.

THE FIRST 75!

Remarkably, the 75 teachers, students and practitioners of landscape architecture who were selected hailed from 8 Brazilian states and 22 cities. Together, they represented 18 institutions of professional education.

The capacity-building, which began in 2004 in Sao Paulo, covered four distinct modules over a two-year period. Module 1 included theory, history, design process, methods and applications; module 2 focused on courses in landscape assessment, ecological design and planting design. In module 3, the instructors covered landscape construction and technology and the final module included landscape planning, impact assessment and urban open space design. North American instructors teamed with Brazilian teachers to lecture, guide studio projects and lead field study.

THE TEACHER'S REWARD

I taught the last section of the final module and witnessed the success of the programme. For example, one of my students went on to do an advance degree in landscape architecture in Australia. (She wanted to study in Canada but couldn't face the prospect of winter.)

German Cruz, one of the North American instructors, applauded "the level of engagement exhibited by landscape architects." As the Brazilians apply their new knowledge to teach in design studios across the country, they will enrich the profession and provide a "very valuable base for growth." This kind of involvement, he says, will put "landscape architecture professionals in a position of national and hemispherical leadership as expositors and exporters of knowledge." By reaching out, we become more powerful participants in global dialogues of benefit to us all. →

1 IN THE FIELD IN AFRICA 2 THE UNITED NATIONS COMPLEX IN NAIROBI
1 SUR LE TERRAIN EN AFRIQUE 2 LE COMPLEXE DES NATIONS UNIES À NAIROBI

The 2008 WUF, which will be held this November in Nanjing, China, will deal with "managing the mega-city" and IFLA is proposing a session on urban green infrastructure. Le congrès WUF 2008, qui aura lieu cette année à Nanjing (Chine) aura pour thème « gérer la mégalopole » et la FIAP propose un atelier sur l'infrastructure urbaine « verte ».



2. MAKING PLANET-WIDE CONNECTIONS

One of IFLA's most important mandates is to represent the profession at the international level, and ensure that LAs are heard at global conference tables. Recently, for example, we've signed Memorandums of Understandings with the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). For the first time, we've opened up avenues for cooperation and mutual recognition with our sister professions.

CAN WE TALK?

Our work with UN-related international agencies gives us a voice in global development programmes developed by UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), that represent culture and nature respectively. IFLA has long worked with UNESCO's historic and cultural landscape protection. Peter Jacobs, Professor at the Université de Montréal's School of Landscape Architecture, represented Canada at the IUCN for a number of years and made valuable contributions to the sustainable development movement.

The impact of other agencies, such as UNEP (UN Environment Programme), is rapidly expanding. Last year, UNEP launched a major worldwide tree planting campaign, the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, and it is targeting global warming through its "Cities and Climate Change" initiative. At a UNEP climate change workshop last year in Nairobi, I was pleased to see that tree planting and urban greening projects were front and centre. In fact, in a call to further action, UNEP has set a new goal of planting seven billion trees by the end of 2009.

In 2006, following the annual CSLA Conference, I represented IFLA at the World Urban Forum (WUF) in Vancouver. Over 5,000 people from governments, NGOs and the professions focused on ways to improve housing and urban settlements, primarily in developing countries. At the conference, we learned that for the first time, over 50 percent of world populations are now living in urban environments. This rapid migration to the city is challenging the physical design and planning professions. We need to be there to offer our knowledge and technical expertise.

To this end, I am representing the profession on the Habitat Professionals Steering Committee of UN-HABITAT, which advises the UN on planning and design in support of their initiatives. At the Vancouver Forum our committee of architects, planners and other professionals held an educational workshop, and I facilitated a session on public participation in design from my perspective as a landscape architect. The 2008 WUF, which will be held this November in Nanjing, China, will deal with "managing the mega-city" and IFLA is proposing a session on urban green infrastructure. UN-HABITAT programmes also include Environment in the City, Safer Cities and Sustainable Cities.

3. LEARNING WITHOUT BORDERS

When Richard Tan, then president of IFLA, appointed me Chair of the International Education Committee, I thought my task was simply to hold an annual meeting of educators at the IFLA World Congresses. As it has played out, the Committee has taken a more activist role.

EDUCATORS AS ACTIVISTS

Education is an important component of the IFLA Strategic Plan, especially since many jurisdictions do not recognize landscape architecture as a distinct professional degree. At a CELA Conference in New Zealand a few years back, it became apparent that this should be rectified. In 2005, our committee began to develop a Charter for Education which defined landscape architecture as a unique profession. We sought to outline educational principles and minimum standards. This required considerable research: standards have long been established in developed parts of the world such as North America and Europe.

The UIA and other professions have used a similar model. The IFLA Charter was registered with UNESCO and proved very useful to developing countries.

This June at the IFLA World Council, we took a second critical step, and submitted a draft guidance document for accreditation or recognition of university educational programmes in landscape architecture. This includes a model accreditation process for countries that have none. This careful preparation

is necessary if we are to counter any possible negative impacts, as education inevitably goes global. Glocal thinking is paramount.

We monitor where in the world help is needed. Viet Nam, Cuba, the Middle East, Africa and other parts of the world are on our list: we'll provide support as possible degree programmes in landscape architecture are considered. Currently, the two landscape architecture degree programmes in Indonesia are in danger of being eliminated. We're working with the local association, providing information on the profession, and planning a visit to educational administrators to encourage a more positive outcome.

4. AFRICA IS OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

Outreach can happen in unusual settings, from northern steppes to African savannas. In Russia, we underwent extensive security checks to meet with the Minister of Public Works in the largest office I had ever seen. Our mission: to advise their regional association on how to reorganize as a western style professional society. Our conclusion: the OALA bylaws provide a good model for them to consider!

Now, my adventures in global outreach take place further south, as Chair of the IFLA Africa Committee. The African Working Group, established in 2005, explores how we might effectively advance the profession on the continent.

THE TO-DO LIST

We need to enhance recognition of the profession, improve educational opportunities, help organize professional associations and find ways to communicate and build capacity. To make these things happen, we will have to engage existing IFLA associations, individual members and trained landscape architects, and obtain external funding from UNESCO and other NGOs. Our long term goal: a sustainable African Region of IFLA within five years.

We started out by trying to identify who and where the landscape architects are in Africa. Fortunately, two BLA graduates from the University of Guelph, Robert Kariuki in Kenya and Niyi Kehinde in Nigeria, have become professional leaders in their countries. We organized a symposium this January, 2008, bring-

ing together regional professionals and educators in landscape architecture to establish an agenda for the future. The symposium was in Dubai, UAE, due to unrest in Kenya and other parts of Africa, and was held in conjunction with the winter meeting of the IFLA Executive Committee.

We made an ambitious beginning, calling for the IFLA President to undertake a mission to Africa to meet with governmental officials. An educational symposium is part of the planning, plus the development of an Africa webpage. We are considering capacity building projects and seeking external support from international agencies and partners.

And – for L/P readers – here's a final idea for glocalization. Not only is the CSLA Executive looking at the idea of partnering with an emerging Africa landscape architecture association, but we are also considering making this magazine available to African universities.



1 THE IFLA AFRICA FORUM: DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR THE PROFESSION IN AFRICA 2+3 WORKING WITH BRAZILIAN TEACHERS 4 KENYAN LA ROBERT KARIUKI, A UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRADUATE 5 KENYA: A POWER BLACKOUT NECESSITATES A CHANGE IN TEACHING METHODS AT JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, WHICH HAS GRADUATED ITS SECOND CLASS OF LAs 1 LE FORUM AFRIQUE DE LA FIAP A ÉTABLI UNE STRATÉGIE POUR DÉVELOPPER LA PROFESSION SUR CE CONTINENT 2+3 AU TRAVAIL AVEC DES ENSEIGNANTS BRÉSILIENS 4 L'ARCHITECTE PAYSAGISTE KÉNIAN ROBERT KARIUKI, DIPLÔMÉ DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GUELPH 5 KENYA: UNE PANNE D'ÉLECTRICITÉ REQUIERT UN CHANGEMENT DE MÉTHODES D'ENSEIGNEMENT À L'UNIVERSITÉ JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, QUI VIENT DE DIPLÔMER SA SECONDE CLASSE D'AP PHOTOS JAMES TAYLOR

A ROCHA THE CONSERVATION IMPERATIVE | UN IMPÉRATIF CONSERVATEUR

INGRID THIESSEN



Durant son congé sabbatique de quatre mois, la famille Thiessen a passé quatre semaines à faire du bénévolat pour d'A Rocha, un organisme de conservation chrétien qui accepte les clients payeurs et bénévoles (www.arocha.org). Pendant deux semaines, la famille a séjourné à une station expérimentale à Cruzinha, à quelques pas de marche de l'estuaire d'Alvor, au Portugal. Les adultes, tous deux architectes paysagistes, ont pris part à des projets professionnels. Cruzinha est également la ville tout indiquée pour les familles, en raison de son programme éducatif. Pour les Thiessen, il était important de vivre dans une collectivité axée sur l'éthique environnementale et chrétienne et engagée dans des travaux de conservation d'envergure.

There is a certain thrill in seeing flamingos in their native habitat. And there is pleasure in asking your hostess if you can have octopus for supper – and then watching your children tentatively taste it. These memories were possible when we did a combination of ecotourism and volunteer work with A Rocha.

In 2007, as part of our family's four-month sabbatical, we volunteered four weeks with A Rocha, shared between their Portugal and London centres. A Rocha, which means The Rock in Portuguese, is a Christian conservation organization launched in the early 1980s. In recent years, A Rocha has exploded in size and it is now involved in 18 countries including Canada. www.arocha.org

We were attracted by A Rocha's conservation focus, which is not common in Christian service organizations. All ages and backgrounds are welcomed. Because A Rocha accepts both paying guests and volunteers (who pay a reduced rate), its program gave us flexibility to work on conservation initiatives as well as to sightsee with our children.

Both my husband and I are landscape architects. We knew that A Rocha has used the skills of planners and landscape architects. A look at the Canadian A Rocha web site shows conceptual site plans for each location. GIS mapping has been used in Portugal and the London office had turned a 90-acre derelict site into a nature park and educational centre, which we visited while volunteering at A Rocha London. When we spoke to A Rocha's Portugal director, Marcial Felgueiras, he exhibited a welcome understanding of the profession.

1 MARCIAL, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE, OVERSEES THE REMOVAL OF A BIRD TO BE Banded AND RELEASED 2 FISHERMEN COLLECTING SHELLFISH IN THE ALVOR ESTUARY 3 HOOPOE 1 MARCIAL, DIRECTEUR DU CENTRE, OBSERVE LA CAPTURE D'UN OISEAU QUI SERA BAGUÉ ET RELÂCHÉ 2 PÊCHEURS DE MOULES DANS L'ESTUAIRE DE L'ALVOR 3 HOOPOE
PHOTOS LAWRENCE BASCHAK

1 - 2

A Rocha is an excellent fit for families because of its hands-on contact with nature. | A Rocha, tout indiqué pour les familles, en raison de son contact direct avec la nature.

Our two weeks volunteering in Portugal were based at Cruzinha, a field station of about four acres within walking distance of the Alvor estuary. The estuary was declared a Natura 2000 site by the European Union in 2006, in part due to its key position in the north-south flyway extending from Africa to northern Europe. The mix of freshwater and saltwater attracts a wide variety of birds making it ideal for research. During our stay, one student researcher from Cardiff University, Wales, was studying the Kentish Plover. A Rocha Portugal has a formal relationship with Cardiff University and is working to establish links with Portuguese universities.

BIRD RINGING

The field station has a strong educational outreach program: local school groups are regular visitors. On Thursdays – visitors' day – 40 to 60 mostly British visitors arrive for bird ringing (the European term for banding.) Our children's interest peaked on this day as they tagged along-side the professional staff and visitors. A Rocha is an excellent fit for families because of such hands-on contact with nature. Participating in a Portuguese community was also a highlight, and this made even the chores enjoyable. Every day we helped with non-professional work, helping prepare meals and doing cleanup.

You do not have to be a Christian to visit A Rocha, but it is a Christian community. Part of their outreach work is advocating for the estuary. It is worth noting that, unlike The Nature Conservancy of Canada, A Rocha does not own the property it studies. The organization is therefore dependent on the landowners and government agencies for support and cooperation. Owners are not always sympathetic. During our stay, the director spent one hectic day trying to stop a bulldozer in the marsh. Even with official designations providing the estuary with some legal protection, he told us about the lax rules and insignificant fines so that bit by bit, such owners can destroy the marsh.

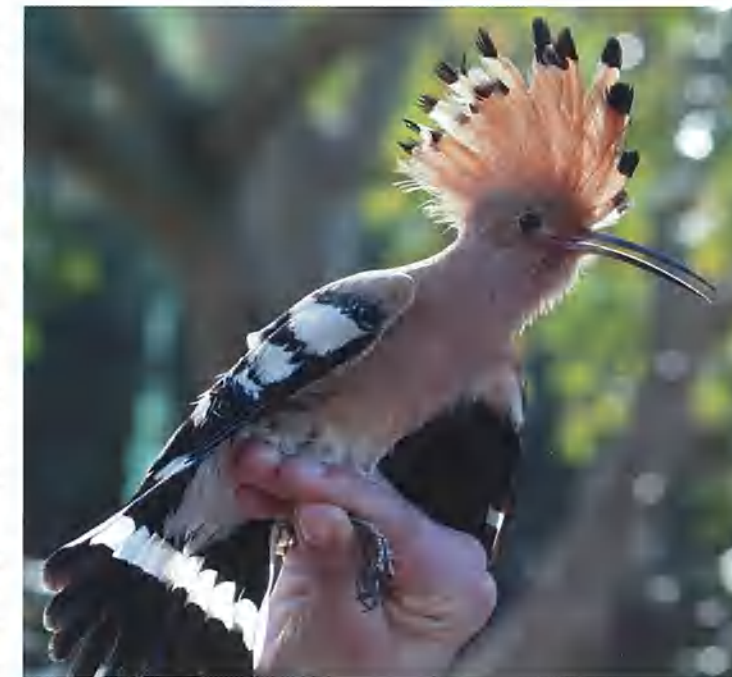
For our professional contribution, Lawrence took digital photos for newsletters and educational work. My landscape architectural work was less straightforward and more problematic: I updated the existing Cruzinha site plan which was more than 10 years old. While I had AutoCAD on the laptop, I worked primarily with sketch paper overlays, because base information was not in digital form. Such logistics were challenging, as were time constraints. When volunteering, it's important to consider what project you can finish, using the tools available.

Certainly there were cultural blinders. For example, the site included a swimming pool which was no longer used, but required for water storage. The director envisioned a visitor centre next to the pool and thus safety for school groups was a concern. It wasn't until we arrived in Italy some weeks later, and I saw a park

overtop of a massive empty cistern, three metres deep, that I understood how to resolve the problem.

I also suggested that Cruzinha prepare pamphlets for self-guided tours of the site, and completed a rough outline of the possibilities. This included explanations of the bird nets and ponds, organic gardens, an innovative organic sewage system, weather station, compost area, and moth trap as well as identification of the various native plants on the property. More detailed background work would have to be done by those familiar with the site, its plants and ecology. In retrospect, it would have added value to the experience to work with a local landscape architect, but we felt our contributions had real value nonetheless.

For our family, it was important to experience a community committed to an environmental and Christian ethic, and engaged in meaningful conservation work. A Rocha's most important legacy is its ability to connect ecological values not only to our daily living, but to our spiritual life. It brings an ecological message to people who may never have considered conservation as a Christian imperative.



3

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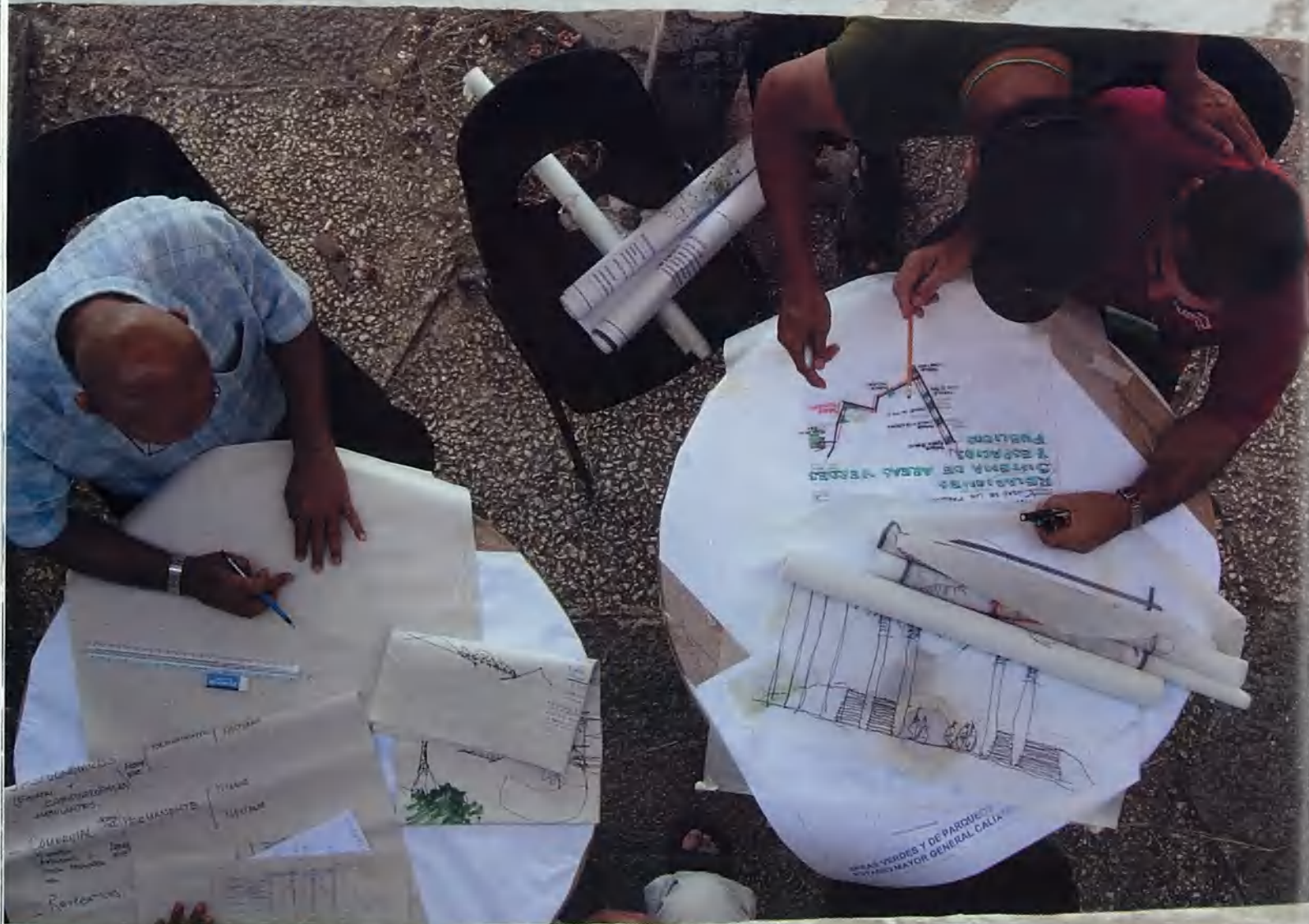
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UNE PLANIFICATION PARTICIPATIVE À CUBA

Le Congrès 2007 de l'AAPC à la Havane marqua non seulement la première sortie de l'AAPC en dehors du Canada, mais ouvrit également la porte à une collaboration continue à Holguín, puis, plus tard, pour le parc métropolitain de la Havane. On organisa, dans le cadre de ce Congrès, une charrette sur l'aménagement à l'extérieur à la place del Cristo à la Havane, où le concept de la conception participative suscita un intérêt particulier. Cette charrette connut un tel succès, que l'Institut de l'aménagement des espaces, l'organisme de planification central cubain, décida d'organiser une charrette de trois jours à Holguín. Cinq équipes travaillèrent directement sur le site du stade Calixto-García en vue de l'élaboration d'une vision commune qui permettrait au parc du stade de figurer au nombre des espaces publics les plus emblématiques de la ville.

La collaboration est allée de plus bel en 2008, notamment dans le cadre d'un atelier pour actualiser le plan directeur du parc métropolitain, une étendue de terrain de 700 hectares au cœur de la Havane.

THE CSLA COMES TO CUBA

The 2007 CSLA Congress held in Havana was special in many ways. This was the CSLA's first step outside Canada. Over 150 delegates attended. For most of the participants, it was an outstanding experience. Not only did we succeed remarkably in finding common ground despite the major differences between our countries; we also opened the door to continued collaboration in Holguín and later in Havana's Parque Metropolitano.

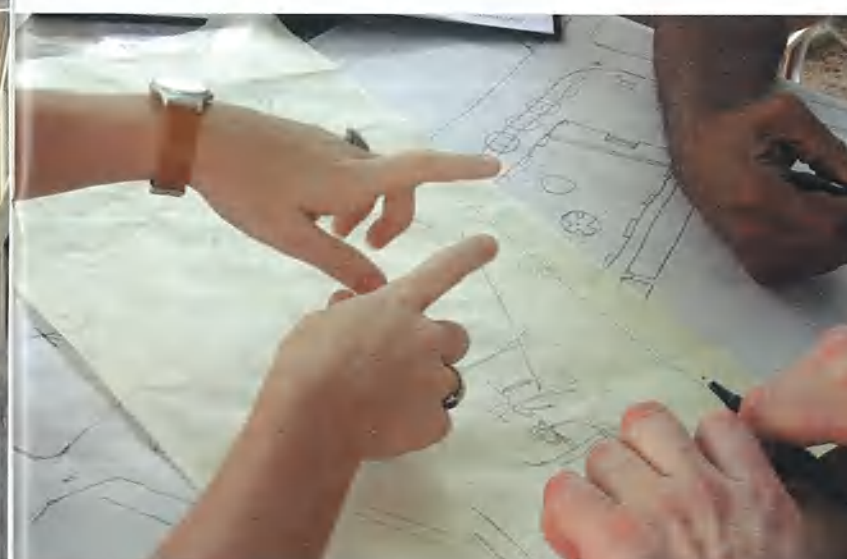
WHY CUBA?

The idea of holding a Congress in Cuba had been pondered for a number of years. The organizers firmly believed that our profession needs to be open to the world. Richard Moore, James Melvin and Jim Vafiades of the OALA, together with Serge Poitras of the AAPQ initially spearheaded the idea, with support from the CSLA and a few Cuban partners. The event was two years in the making; organizing a conference in a country such as Cuba holds many challenges.

But why Cuba, and why Havana? Canada has traditionally had good relations with Cuba. The country has an incredibly rich architectural and landscape heritage, not to mention a dynamic culture. Its political structure is highly centralized, but its economy and society are evolving. Despite a major economic crisis in the '90s, Cuba is today resolutely part of the globalization movement. Economic transformations spurred by industries such as tourism are having an impact on

1 THE CALIXTO-GARCIA STADIUM SITE, HOLGUÍN: WORKING TEAMS DEVELOP A VISION FOR AN EMBLEMATIC PUBLIC SPACE 2, 3, 5 + 6 THE PLAZA DEL CRISTO IS THE HUB OF A DENSE AND SOCIALLY RICH NEIGHBOURHOOD 4 HAVANA STREET | 1 LE STADE CALIXTO-GARCIA, HOLGUÍN : DES GROUPES DE TRAVAIL ÉLABORENT UNE VISION POUR UN ESPACE PUBLIC EMBLÉMATIQUE 2, 3, 5 + 6 LA PLAZA DEL CRISTO EST LE CENTRE D'UN QUARTIER DENSE ET HAUT EN COULEUR 4 RUE DE LA HAVANE
PHOTOS CLAUDE POTVIN

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*The CSLA Congress sparked a keen interest in landscape architecture among Cuban professionals. . .
Le Congrès de l'AAPC à la Havane a donné lieu à un vif intérêt à l'endroit de l'architecture de paysage. . .*

the environment; sustainable planning approaches are essential. Why not bring Canadians and Cubans together to explore new methodologies for improving Cuba's cities and living environments, its historic sites and monuments, and its natural habitats?

What better place than Havana to make this happen, an historic port city with exceptional architecture and streetscapes, declared a World Heritage Site in 1982. The old historic centre of Havana has been undergoing extensive restoration under the auspices of the *Oficina del Historiador* (Office of the City Historian). The Oficina, which became an important partner in the Congress, balances architectural restoration with social and economic revitalization through sustainable tourist development.

The second partner of importance was the *Unión Nacional de Arquitectos e Ingenieros de la Construcción de Cuba* (UNAICC), a national body of more than 17,000 architects, engineers and planners. Our profession, landscape architecture, doesn't officially exist in Cuba, but the Congress sparked a keen interest in landscape architecture among Cuban professionals, academics and government representatives alike.

The organizers wanted to avoid a situation where Canadians were talking to Canadians in an idyllic vacation setting. They wanted instead to encourage dialogue around three themes: Heritage and Cultural Landscapes, Parks and Natural Reserves and Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development. The UNAICC vice-president, Mirtha García de Hombre, was instrumental in putting together the Congress program with the Canadians, which included 20 Canadian and Cuban speakers. As well, the Canadians made some 13 presentations to a Cuban audience at the UNAICC headquarters showcasing the full breadth of Canadian practice at home and internationally.

AT HOME WITH HISTORY

An outdoor design charrette at the Plaza del Cristo was a particularly inspiring "hands on" exchange. Plaza del Christo is one of five historic plazas in Old Havana; the other four have been successfully restored. In spite of the site's advanced state of disrepair, it is intensively used by local residents. This plaza is the hub of a dense and socially rich neighbourhood. In this unique space, the Congress offered an experience in participatory design – a relatively new concept in Cuba.

The exchange of ideas between professionals, students and residents clearly surpassed the charrette's initial goals, which were to clarify the site's heritage character, define site and user vocations, and develop design concepts and guidelines which the *Historiador* could use in future restoration. Even neighbourhood youngsters didn't hesitate to pick up a pencil and contribute their ideas.

For Cuban planning professionals seeking new models for decision-making and sustainable urban development in Cuba, the concept of participatory design generated significant interest. The charrette's success inspired the *Instituto de Planificación Física*, the central Cuban planning agency, to organize a three-day charrette later in June 2007 in the City of Holguín in Eastern Cuba.



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THE STADIUM AS AN EMBLEM

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) jointly organized the event, with three landscape architects: Raquel Penalosa, Claude Potvin and Serge Poitras. CUI has worked in Cuba since 1995 as part of the UN Local Agenda 21 – Cuba Urban Partnerships Program. Their aim is to improve urban governance, particularly by promoting participatory planning. Some 40 participants, mainly architects, engineers and community representatives from the five eastern provinces of Cuba, as well as professors from the University of Havana, grouped together for four days.

Work focused on the Calixto-García Stadium site near downtown Holguín, which the local city government has slated for improvements. Built in 1979, it is the second most important baseball stadium in Cuba. It is surrounded by a huge, under-used parking lot and a wide diversity of sometimes illicit and unmanaged uses, under different jurisdictions.

Five teams worked directly on the site to develop a common vision that would transform the stadium park into one of the city's emblematic public spaces. To gather public feedback, the charrette included an opinion survey: the site needed to meet community needs and be economically sustainable.

The City of Holguín readily received the report, especially because many of the proposals could be immediately implemented, and the work was displayed in a public exhibition. But for Rafael Betancourt of the CUI in Cuba, the results reached beyond the event itself to build the capacity of Cuban participants. "Your contribution was very valuable. . . to establishing the charrette as a useful tool for participatory planning in the Physical Planning System and to enabling solutions to the specific problem of the Holguín stadium. You were great professionals and human beings, and you left a very positive impression among all who participated."



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GRAN PARQUE METROPOLITANO

Many of the same players came together in April, 2008, at a workshop focusing on one of Havana's largest parks: Parque Metropolitano. The Parque is a 700-hectare expanse of land in central Havana and as such is one of city's largest parks. It constitutes the lower watershed of the Río Almandares, the largest river in the Havana region, which only a few years ago was severely polluted by open sewage from industrial and residential sources and solid waste disposal. Today, the water quality is substantially improved, thanks to a pioneering initiative funded by Canada from 1995-2002. The extensive community-based environmental restoration project has since been a model for other projects within Havana and other Cuban cities.

In spite of this initial success, the park is plagued with other problems such as deforestation and conflicting industrial and residential land uses which require major investments to relocate. Fortunately, it boasts the remarkable Almandares River, and a number of significant potential attractions: the shady Jardines de La Florida (named after a pre-revolution brand of beer), the luxuriant El Bosque forest and a 1592 water dam (the oldest in the Americas.)

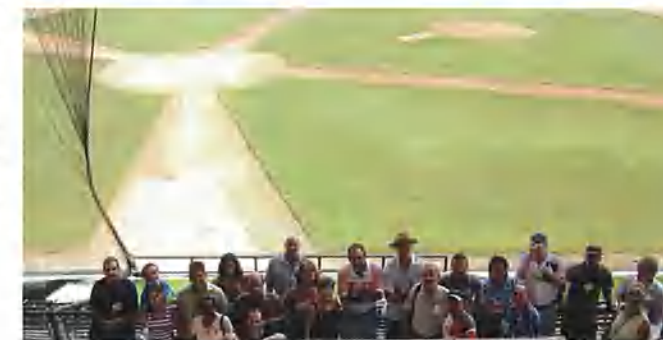
As a guest speaker, I took part in discussions to update the park master plan: its transportation systems, public spaces and park services. Throughout the workshop, ideas were plentiful, and included a children's park and an interpretation center focusing on water, biking and hiking trails. While financing is always a challenge, the park's natural wealth may well attract international investment in an ecotourism package. As well, Parque Metropolitano has gained status as a public enterprise which grants it revenue-raising authority. This should help it to fund improvements over the long term; it is critical that the park meet local needs and be economically sustainable.

AMBASSADORS AT LARGE

The collaborative relationship initiated in Havana in 2007 continues into 2008 and hopefully, beyond. Although our profession still doesn't exist in Cuba *per se*, a handful of architects, academics and other professionals have developed local expertise and recognize the importance of moving forward. The country needs to develop a landscape curriculum in the universities, to link with organizations such as IFLA and host events around landscape themes.

In 2010, the *II Convención Internacional de Arquitectura* will be held in the beautiful Viñales Valley, a world heritage site in the Pinar del Río region. I hope Canadian landscape architects will participate as ambassadors, sharing knowledge about landscape architecture not only in Cuba but also in other countries where our profession is not well known. HAVANE

1 YOUNGSTERS PICKED UP A PENCIL AT THE PLAZA DEL CRISTO CHARRETTE 2 + 5 CALIXTO-GARCIA STADIUM SITE 3 RIO ALMANDARES 4 IN HAVANA'S PARQUE METROPOLITANO | 1 DES ENFANTS DESSINENT À LA CHARRETTE DE PLAZA DEL CRISTO 2 + 5 LE STADE CALIXTO-GARCIA 3 RIO ALMANDARES 4 LE PARQUE METROPOLITANO DE LA HAVANE
PHOTOS CLAUDE POTVIN



5

A TEAHOUSE IN TURKEY | UNE SALON DE THÉ EN TURQUIE

KELLEY BEAVERFORD



"It was like a festival. . . we all got together and achieved something wonderful." | « C'était comme un festival... nous nous sommes réunis et avons réalisé quelque chose de merveilleux. »

... Mesut Oksuzoglu

La mondialisation a provoqué un accroissement de la demande en diplômés capables de communiquer efficacement avec des gens de cultures et de réalités sociales différentes. En gardant cela à l'esprit, 15 étudiants de l'Université du Manitoba organisèrent un voyage d'un mois à destination de Deydinler, en Turquie, en vue de la construction d'un salon de thé et d'un jardin au sein de la collectivité du village.

Il s'agissait d'une collaboration enlevante pour les étudiants qui traversait cultures, disciplines et frontières. Ce projet s'inscrivait dans le cadre d'un cours sur la collectivité mondiale de la faculté d'architecture, qui porte sur l'apprentissage pratique et qui vise à promouvoir les compétences interculturelles. Les professeurs choisirent une équipe interdisciplinaire d'étudiants qui, malgré les défis de taille, apprit que le succès était fonction du travail avec la collectivité en non du travail pour le compte de la collectivité. Selon un villageois, « c'était comme un festival. Le fait d'avoir des étudiants a créé une synergie qui nous a permis de réaliser quelque chose de merveilleux. »

Globalization has heightened the need for graduates to learn to effectively interact with people from different cultural and social realities. With this in mind, 15 students from the University of Manitoba set off on a month-long journey to Deydinler, Turkey, to build a teahouse and garden with the village community.

The Deydinler teahouse and garden holds a special place in the history of the 400-year-old village. Traditionally open only to men, the community aspired to have a teahouse and garden that would welcome women and children. Throughout May 2007, the contingent of students would design and build the teahouse, together with three professors, volunteers from the village, a small crew of tradespeople, and a very patient contractor named Semsettin.

For the students, it was a unique and exciting opportunity and a lesson in global citizenship. The project was part of a Faculty of Architecture course, Service Learning in the Global Community, which is based on hands-on learning and is designed to promote intercultural competencies – everything from adaptability and cultural empathy to non-judgmental perceptiveness and intercultural communication. Over 40 people had applied, and the instructors selected eight undergraduate and seven graduate students from the disciplines of Architecture, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, City Planning, and Graphic Design. The instructors wanted to build an

interdisciplinary team of students likely to thrive in a cross-cultural setting.

The students were well aware of the course objectives. "The philosophy is significantly different from traditional design studios," said student Shelagh Graham. "We are encouraged to look beyond the technical and theoretical aspects of the project to truly consider the community with whom we are designing."

PANIC SETS IN

From this side of the Atlantic, the project seemed both inspiring and exotic. But the learning curve was initially steep. To build intercultural understanding and encourage the Manitobans to develop working partnerships with the villagers, the students were billeted in the community. Several students were reluctant. Student Lauren Hauser remembers the trepidation she felt before meeting her host family. "The panic set in during the bus ride to the village. I had asked Kelley what the plan would be once we arrived assuming we would have some sort of large get-together with the host families to ease us into the new environment. No such luck. . . we were just going to be dropped off. . . after that we were on our own for the entire evening!"

Later, however, almost all identified the home-stays as an essential learning experience, and found it difficult to leave their hosts. The families became cultural guides who helped them make sense of the experience as a whole. Even the considerable

language barrier was overcome. "The language difference adds a layer of depth to the learning," said student Vanessa Aleshka, "for we were forced to be creative in how we communicated, while remaining patient with both others and ourselves."

21 DAYS IN DEYDINLER

The teahouse itself brought cultures together, as students and villagers worked toward a common goal. Since the project required high levels of interaction, it promoted the development of effective, respectful and appropriate design strategies.

At first, the task was daunting: a two-storey teahouse, terraced garden, soccer field and playground. "Our site was large, much larger than I had anticipated," said landscape architecture student Leanne Muir. It held a very prominent location in Deydinler along the main street and across from the few small businesses in the village." It was hard to believe that this large site would soon transform into a classroom for all participants. "It was basically a small shed perched atop a hill full of years of refuge and three months of weed growth measuring over a metre tall and being too dense to walk through," said Leanne. "My main concerns were that we didn't know what types of machinery we would have access to or how the actual shaping of the land would occur. We basically had to trust that things would happen and sure enough they did, faster than we could have imagined."

Once on the construction site, friendships invariably formed, encouraging critical comparative analyses between local and global conditions. For Vanessa Aleshka, the strongest memory was working with five other students and local builders, tying rebar for two days straight. "The job was repetitive and physically engaging, and gave us an opportunity to get to know one another and share in an experience that was new for all of us." Although the students and professors learned about woodworking, bricklaying and pouring concrete, the lessons on cultural exchange are the ones that most of us still talk about.



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1 THE TEAHOUSE SITE 2 VILLAGE MEETING 3 THE CHAIN GANG 4 MANSERA PARK STRINGS | 1 LE SITE DU SALON DE THÉ 2 ASSEMBLÉE DE VILLAGE 3 LA CHAÎNE HUMAINE 4 FICELLES AU PARC. MANSERA PHOTOS JOE KALTURNYK

"We basically had to trust that things would happen and sure enough they did, faster than we could have imagined." | « On devait tout simplement s'assurer que quelque chose allait arriver et, comme de raison, tout est arrivé, plus rapidement qu'on aurait pu se l'imaginer. »

... Leanne Muir



5-6-7-8

Some of the lessons were tough ones to accept. In the garden, community perceptions of beauty were at odds with standard Canadian practice. "As visitors to the Turkish culture, and specifically rural Deydinler culture, it was hard to . . . gauge the villager's perceptions," said Leanne Muir. "Our initial plant choices included many native trees and shrubs which were discarded in favour of imported Italian trees and ornamental roses."

What remains in her memory now – over a year later – was the difficulty she had in understanding the community's perception. Why did the villagers and the horticulturist prefer these species rather than celebrating what they had locally? "What I had assumed, both from my education and my rural upbringing, would be standard practice. . . was not understood at all and we did not have the communication capacity to explain the reasoning behind our choices."

Despite such significant challenges, students quickly acknowledged that the success of the project hinged on working *with* the community rather than *for* the community, something that is difficult to teach in a traditional studio environment. When I asked community member Mesut Oksuzoglu about the value of the project to Deydinler Village he responded, "It was like a festival. Having the students here created an exciting time when we all got together and achieved something wonderful."

Service learning projects such as the Deydinler teahouse provide a genuine context for architectural learning for the global community. As an educator, I believe that collaboration across cultures, disciplines and borders, contributes to a design education for the 21st century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The teahouse and garden known as the Deydinler-Manitoba Friendship Park, is now fully operational thanks to Deydinler Village, The University of Manitoba, Professor Karl Burkheimer (Oregon College of Arts and Crafts), Professor Leland Hill (VCU Qatar), and 15 adventurous students. The villagers simply call it Friendship Park.

5-8 THE DEYDINLER-MANITOBA FRIENDSHIP PARK TAKES SHAPE | LE PARC DE L'AMITIÉ DEYDINLER-MANITOBA PREND FORME
PHOTOS JOE KALTURNYK

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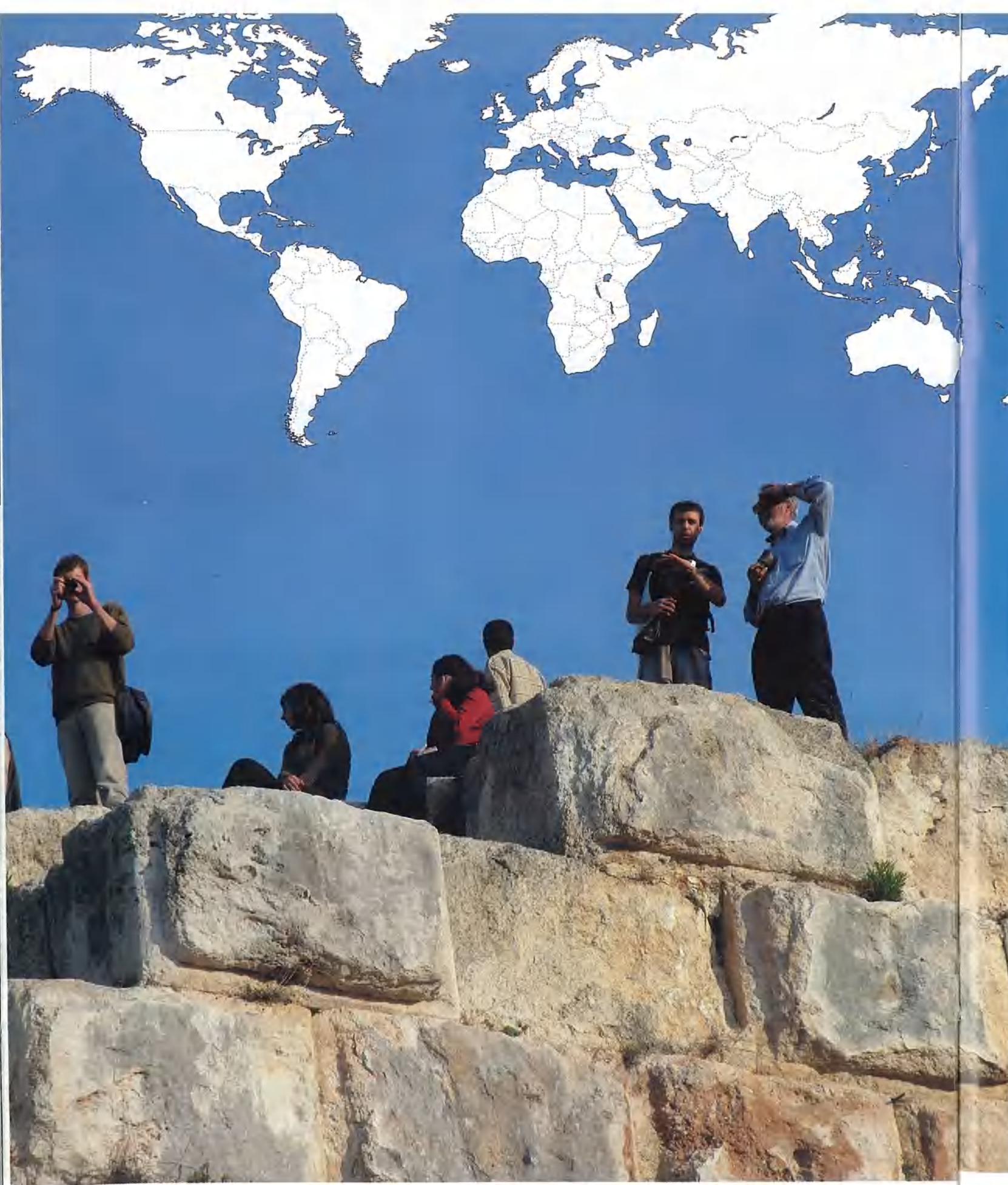
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RENDEZ-VOUS INTERNATIONAUX SUR LE PAYSAGE : LES WAT DE LA CHAIRE UNESCO EN PAYSAGE ET ENVIRONNEMENT

PHILIPPE POULLAOUËC-GONIDEC

LANDSCAPE LEARNING THROUGH WATS

Rapid urbanization since the early 20th century has raised issues concerning the preservation, reclamation and development of land that has seen large-scale, uniform transformation. It is in this context that UNESCO established the UNESCO Chair on Landscape and Environment (CUPEUM). The CUPEUM formed a scientific cooperation network consisting of 19 academic institutions covering all design disciplines in five regions (North America, Asia, Europe, Maghreb and the Middle East). Each year, the network organizes a Workshop_atelier/terrain (WAT), a unique learning model that adopts a multicultural, transdisciplinary approach to stimulate the implementation of inventive and innovative viable development projects. All projects are part of the CUPEUM's *Observatoire international des paysages périphériques : villes et métropoles*, a reference site on urbanization issues, solutions, experiments and the design of cities in the 21st century. Once posted on the Internet, WATs will be a precious source of documentation on urban landscaping internationally for elected officials, administrators and design professionals.

Les WAT constituent d'année en année un véritable observatoire de paysages urbains. / From year to year, the WATs serve as an observatory of urban landscapes.

L'ÉDITION DE 2005 : LES PHÉNOMÈNES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'ÉTALEMENT URBAIN DE LA VILLE NORD DE SAÏDA (AU SUD LIBAN) | 2005: REFLECTING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND SPREAD OF THE NORTH SAÏDA TOWN (IN SOUTH LIBANON)
PHOTO UNESCO CUPEUM

Pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'humanité en 2007, plus de 50 % de la population mondiale vit en ville, comparativement à 10 % au tout début du 20e siècle. Certaines études ont même laissé entrevoir qu'en 2030, 60 % de la population serait urbaine. L'urbanisation génère un enjeu majeur de préservation, de mise en valeur et de développement des territoires soumis à des transformations massives et uniformes dans un très court laps de temps. Ces mutations excessives interpellent les dimensions sociales, culturelles, environnementales et économiques des sociétés à l'échelle locale et planétaire.

Depuis plus de 12 ans, la Chaire en paysage et environnement de l'Université de Montréal développe des travaux de recherche sur ces questions de transformations excessives des territoires habités et elle a généré, en partenariat avec le gouvernement du Québec, de nouvelles connaissances quant aux enjeux du paysage urbain, à sa reconnaissance sociale et culturelle, à sa mise en valeur et à son développement.

Afin de partager cette connaissance unique sur la scène internationale, l'UNESCO a décidé de créer, en 2003, la Chaire UNESCO en paysage et environnement à l'Université de Montréal (CUPEUM) et de soutenir un important chantier pédagogique et de recherche sur la question des paysages urbains et périurbains.

Fortement interpellée par le devenir des villes et de leurs interfaces territoriales, la CUPEUM, en partenariat avec le programme MOST (Management of Social Transformations) de l'UNESCO (en interface avec le WHC - Centre du patrimoine mondial - et le programme MAB - Man and Biosphere -) a décidé de mener annuellement une activité internationale de grande envergure. Celle-ci permet de soutenir sa mission qui lui est confiée par l'UNESCO à travers les objectifs de développer une recherche et un enseignement supérieur en architecture de paysage à travers une approche transdisciplinaire; de miser sur des recherches et des projets d'aménagement structurants; d'internationaliser un savoir multi-disciplinaire; de diffuser l'ensemble des activités

générées par la CUPEUM et son réseau pour contribuer activement à la diffusion du savoir à l'échelle internationale.

Pour rencontrer les termes de sa mission, la CUPEUM a su très rapidement fédérer un réseau de coopération scientifique de 19 institutions universitaires regroupant toutes les disciplines de l'aménagement et provenant de l'Amérique du Nord, de l'Asie, de l'Europe, du Maghreb et du Moyen-Orient. À ces partenaires de projets, s'associent des organismes gouvernementaux du Canada, du Québec et des pays hôtes de ces Workshop_atelier/terrain (WAT) de la CUPEUM. Le WAT constitue l'activité « phare » de la CUPEUM.

LES TROIS PREMIÈRES ÉDITIONS

Les trois premières éditions des WAT ont eu lieu dans les régions du Maghreb et du Moyen-Orient : Marrakech - Maroc 2004, Saïda - Liban 2005, Mahdia - Tunisie 2006. En 2007, la CUPEUM a tenu sa première expérience asiatique dans la ville de Ganghwa - République de Corée. L'édition 2008 se tiendra à Jinze dans le district de Qingpu de la région de Shanghai (Chine).

Ces rendez-vous annuels rassemblent plus de 40 étudiants d'architecture de paysage, d'architecture, de design urbain, d'urbanisme et de géographie d'Amérique du Nord, d'Asie, d'Europe, du Maghreb et du Moyen-Orient et ils réunissent un collège d'experts locaux et de professeurs du réseau scientifique de coopération internationale de la CUPEUM pour élaborer des scénarios d'aménagement viables pour les collectivités interpellées.

Chaque WAT se déroule dans une ville-hôte qui est identifiée par l'UNESCO et la CUPEUM en accord avec les Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO des pays membres. Les sites d'étude, les thèmes des projets et la programmation générale de l'activité sont élaborés conjointement avec les élus, les experts locaux, les représentants de l'UNESCO et de la CUPEUM. Dès le démarrage de l'activité sur le terrain, les équipes de travail sont constituées de quatre étudiants. Chaque équipe et la direction



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pédagogique de l'atelier sont multiculturelles et multidisciplinaires. Cette activité intensive se déploie sur 12 jours consécutifs sous la forme d'une « charte de design ».

DES CONCOURS D'IDÉES

Ces WAT sont à la fois des exercices de visions d'aménagement et des concours d'idées puisque les trois projets lauréats sont récompensés par des médailles de l'UNESCO suite à la tenue d'un jury international sous la présidence de l'UNESCO et du maire de la ville-hôte.

Le WAT de la CUPEUM est un modèle d'apprentissage singulier et unique par son approche multiculturelle et transdisciplinaire qui stimule la mise en œuvre de projets inventifs et innovateurs pour le développement viable des villes-hôtes. Surtout, ils informent les élus et les experts locaux des multiples possibilités et occasions que leur offre leur milieu de vie.

Le défi de chacun de ces rendez-vous est d'assurer un suivi, c'est-à-dire d'accompagner la mise en œuvre des projets de paysage. En léguant l'ensemble des projets de paysage aux municipalités concernées et en éditant annuellement un livre qui rapporte l'ensemble des réflexions de cette activité internationale, la CUPEUM s'assure de la diffusion des résultats. Ce legs constitue des outils de dialogue et de concertation locale qui doivent guider la mise en œuvre de projets concrets et contribuer

à réaliser des schémas d'aménagement, des plans de projet ou des politiques et des réglementations urbanistiques.

Actuellement, la CUPEUM assure un ensemble de suivi auprès des maires et des experts des villes-hôtes afin de matérialiser les visions déployées lors de ces WAT_UNESCO.

Les WAT de la Chaire UNESCO constituent ainsi d'année en année un véritable observatoire de paysages urbains et périurbains. Chaque est un état de lieux et présente les actions à entreprendre pour contrer leur uniformité et pour sauvegarder leur singularité.

L'OBSERVATOIRE INTERNATIONAL

Inscrit dans « l'Observatoire international des paysages périphériques : villes et métropoles » de la CUPEUM, l'ensemble des projets est rassemblé dans une librairie virtuelle. Ce site constitue ainsi un lieu de référence sur les enjeux de l'urbanisation, sur les solutions apportées, sur l'expérimentation du projet de paysage urbain et sur le design des villes au XXIe siècle.

La diffusion des WAT sur Internet constituera sans doute pour tous une source de documentation et une compréhension plus éclairée sur le projet de paysage urbain à l'échelle internationale. Avec le temps, elle livrera également du matériel propice aux études comparatives afin de mieux comprendre les phénomènes d'urbanisation et d'évaluer les solutions appor-

Le WAT de la CUPEUM est un modèle d'apprentissage singulier et unique par son approche multiculturelle et transdisciplinaire. / The CUPEUM WAT is a unique learning model with its multicultural and multidisciplinary approach.

1 LA PREMIÈRE EXPÉRIENCE ASIATIQUE DANS LA VILLE DE GANGHWA (RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE) EN 2007 2 LE FAUBOURG RURAL DE JINZE (QINGPU, PROVINCE DE SHANGHAI EN CHINE) EN 2008 3, 4, 6 + 7 MAHDIA (TUNISIE) EN 2005 8 MARRAKECH (MAROC) 2004 | 1 THE FIRST ASIAN EXPERIMENT IN THE CITY OF GANGHWA (KOREAN REPUBLIC) IN 2007 2 THE RURAL SUBURB OF JINZE (QINGPU, SHANGHAI PROVINCE IN CHINA) IN 2008 3, 4, 6 + 7 MAHDIA (TUNISIA) IN 2005 8 MARRAKECH (MOROCCO) 2004
PHOTOS 1 - 6 UNESCO CUPEUM 7 PHILIPPE POUILLAUJEC-GONIDEZ 8 GÉRALD DOMON

tées vis-à-vis des enjeux d'aménagement du territoire dans des contextes géographiques, sociaux, culturels, environnementaux, économiques et politiques.

Ainsi sous l'apparente diversité des cultures et des lieux, les WAT livrent les traits communs d'une société planétaire qui s'uniformise à grands pas. Les enjeux de territoire, de leur urbanisation et de leur mise en paysage révèlent de profondes similitudes à travers une diversité de contextes.

D'année en année, de ville en ville, le réseau de coopération s'agrandit et les rencontres créent des dialogues entre les régions du monde. Cette activité décloisonne les savoirs, elle questionne certaines expertises tout comme elle en dévoile d'autres. Par ce fait même, elle stimule les institutions universitaires participantes à créer des formations supérieures en architecture de paysage et en études paysagères, des séminaires de formation continue auprès des professionnels en aménagement, des forums publics et à entrevoir des coopérations internationales en recherche.

Ainsi au-delà de révéler, d'induire et de promouvoir la singularité des lieux dans le dessein des paysages urbains à travers différentes régions du monde, les WAT de la CUPEUM dans le sillage de leur grande traversée des continents ensemencent des lendemains.

WWW.UNESCO-PAYSAGE.UMONTREAL.CA/ACTIVITES-PEDAGOGIQUES.HTML



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6



7



8

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES: KAMPALA KIDS KNOW THEIR TERRITORY

SARAH McCANS



In 2006, I was fortunate to acquire international experience courtesy of an eight-month CIDA/Canadian Institute of Planners WorldLink Internship in Kampala, Uganda. As I lived and worked in Kampala, I came to appreciate the impact that basic urban environmental quality – particularly water, sanitation, waste management and housing – has on children's well-being and development.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to the threats posed by pollution and the environmental hazards that characterize the developing world's crowded and under-served slums. Children's levels of immunity and exposure mean that hazards affect them in ways that differ from adults. Moreover, effects incurred during crucial stages in children's physical and psychosocial development can have severe repercussions in their adult lives.

CHILDREN ARE RARELY INCLUDED

Nonetheless, children are rarely included in participatory development projects. Initiatives such as the UNESCO's Growing Up In Cities project have advocated for children's inclusion in urban planning and management processes, but it remains rare in practice. Planners and designers the world over tend to make assumptions about what children need and want. Consequently, children's needs are often ignored or misconstrued and interventions risk being ill-designed.

When working on issues that affect children we must wrestle not only with our "adult" lens but also our cultural lens. As Canadian professionals trained in North America, our cultural and professional lenses limit our ability to fully understand the complexities and nuances of daily life in less developed countries, despite our best intentions.

IN KAMPALA PARISHES

In 2007, an IDRC Research Internship enabled me to explore these issues further. My internship was based with the Centre's Urban Poverty & Environment (UPE) Programme Initiative. UPE supports research aimed to ease environmental burdens that exacerbate poverty in cities. It works to strengthen the capacity of the poor to equitably access environmental services, reduce environmental degradation and vulnerability to natural disasters, and enhance use of natural resources.

Children will tell you very directly what's going on. They're not politically motivated and don't censor themselves.



I returned to Kampala to carry out field research that explored these themes from the vantage point of children and youth. My goal was not only to learn more about children's experiences, but also to show what children have to contribute when given a chance, and how much they understand the issues facing their communities.

The city of Kampala experiences two rainy seasons a year and is very lush. Its hilly topography has affected settlement patterns: the poorest slum and squatter neighbourhoods are located on low-lying, flood prone areas, where land is considered undesirable for development. Access to urban services such as roads, water and sanitation is limited. For their livelihood, neighbourhood residents engage in urban agriculture. They recycle organic and inorganic wastes, extract sand and clay for building materials, and make bricks.

However, the topography, the lack of basic services and the heavy rainy seasons combine to create significant problems for residents living in these low-lying areas. Flooding interrupts local income-generating activities, and solid and liquid wastes accumulate, creating health and environmental implications for the local communities as well as those downstream.

30 KIDS... 30 DRAWINGS

In Kampala, I worked with three groups of children of 10 children between the ages of 9 and 12. They lived in three different parishes involved in IDRC's Focus Cities Research Initiative. I wanted to give these children an opportunity to share how they experience the environmental issues in their communities. Children will tell you very directly what's going on. They're not politically motivated and don't censor themselves.

Bwaise parish, located at the bottom of a valley, is always hardest hit by flooding. Children and adults wade through contaminated water full of raw sewage. Residents suffer from skin lesions, and there are frequent cholera outbreaks. Children are particularly vulnerable because their immune systems are not yet fully developed. Makerere-II parish doesn't suffer the same degree of flooding as Bwaise, but people are aware of the issues in Bwaise. The third parish, Kasubi, is not affected by flooding at all.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

All of the children did two sets of drawings – one illustrating environmental problems near their homes, and another about issues affecting the local community. More than 60 drawings were produced in all.

With the exception of Kasubi, the parish least affected by serious environmental problems, the themes were remarkably similar: sanitation, water quality, health issues, flooding, and loss of personal possessions and homes because of the flooding. The biggest concern for the children in Kasubi was hygiene in the local market and the fact that produce was being sold near latrines and open toilets. That was interesting, because adults had never raised this concern in the community meetings.

What came through in all the drawings was how well the children understood the connections between human activity and the environmental and health issues in the community. That surprised the adults, because they didn't think children understood. But they do, through a combination of living this way on a daily basis and receiving hygiene and health education in schools from an early age.

As adults, planners often make assumptions about what children need and want. My experience in Kampala underscored the importance of consulting kids directly. Involving children ought to be a given in participatory development, but they are often left on the sidelines, much as women were 25 or 30 years ago.



1 SOUTHERN UGANDA EXPERIENCES TWO ANNUAL RAINY SEASONS. IN THE LOW-LYING AREAS WHERE THE LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS LIVE, SEVERE FLOODING OCCURS. 2 SARAH AND FRIENDS 3 THREE GROUPS OF 10 CHILDREN EACH DID TWO SETS OF DRAWINGS – ONE ILLUSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS NEAR THEIR HOMES, AND ANOTHER ABOUT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. 4 THE FLOODING HAS PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. THIS DRAWING BY A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL TELLS THE IMAGINED STORY OF A GIRL WHO GOT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO USE THE LATRINE, BUT GOT SWEEPED AWAY BY THE FLOOD WATERS AND DROWNED. 5 WHEN THE FLOODS COME, THE LATRINES BECOME BLOCKED, SEWAGE FLOWS INTO THE FLOODWATER, ENTERS THE HOUSES AND CONTAMINATES DRINKING WATER. THE CHILDREN CLEARLY STATED THE OUTCOME: "WE GET SICK."

PHOTO 2 JANAT NNAKANGU; PHOTOS 1, 3, 4, 5 + 6 SARAH McCANS



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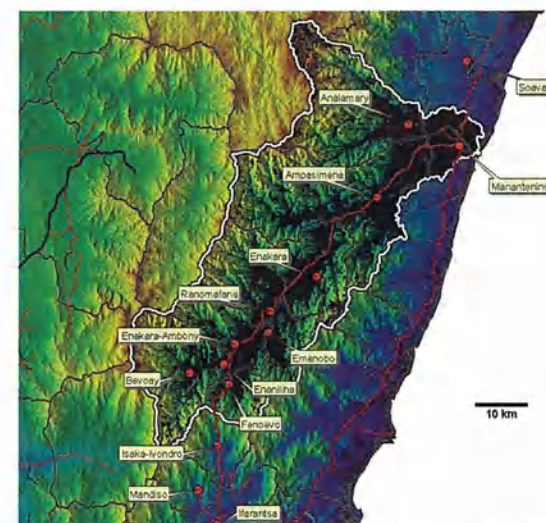


SHIPWRECKS INDICATE THE URGENT NEED FOR A NEW PORT – NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION PARTIALLY AS A RESULT OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND PLAN | LES ÉPAVES INDICENT LE BESOIN URGENT D'UN NOUVEAU PORT, MAINTENANT EN CHANTIER EN PARTIE À CAUSE DU PLAN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT RÉGIONAL

PHOTO JAMES DOBBIN

MADAGASCAR UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL | LIBÉRER LE POTENTIEL

LANDSCAPES | PAYSAGES WITH | AVEC JAMES DOBBIN



RANOMAFANA VALLEY: THE BLACK ZONE (125,000 HA) INDICATES LAND OF EXCELLENT POTENTIAL: IT IS RELATIVELY FLAT <15%, CLOSE TO A MAJOR RIVER OR FIRST ORDER STREAM, WITH GOOD SOILS AND ABUNDANT RAINFALL. CURRENTLY ONLY 1,000 HA HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED | VALLÉE DE RANOMAFANA : LA ZONE EN NOIR (125 000 HA) REPRÉSENTE DES TERRES AVEC UN EXCELLENT POTENTIEL. ELLE EST RELATIVEMENT PLATE <15 %, PROCHE D'UN FLEUVE MAJEUR OU D'UN COURS D'EAU DE PREMIER ORDRE, AVEC UN SOL FERTILE ET DES PLUIES ABONDANTES. SEULEMENT 1 000 HA SONT DÉJÀ MIS EN VALEUR.

La région d'Anosy au Madagascar se trouve non seulement dans l'une des régions les plus pauvres de Madagascar, mais également dans l'un des pays les plus pauvres du monde. Avant d'y construire une mine d'ilménite, QMM (une division de Rio Tinto) décida d'aider la région à atteindre une croissance économique durable, avec le soutien du Groupe de la Banque mondiale en vue de la préparation d'une stratégie de développement régional et d'un plan d'action en matière d'investissements.

Jim Dobbin, de Dobbin International Inc., proposa une démarche de planification « ascendante », avec l'aide d'un comité local de développement régional pour débattre de dossiers critiques et donner des conseils. Il créa une équipe de huit experts malgaches en économie, en environnement et sciences sociales, en planification et gestion de l'information (GIS), en infrastructure et en génie, équipe qui forma à son tour un comité technique de 40 personnes.

Ils identifièrent sept « principaux pôles et couloirs de croissance » multisectoriels dans la région et relevèrent un besoin de financement de 715 millions de \$ US pour les 20 prochaines années. QMM, la Banque mondiale, US Aid, le gouvernement malgache, l'Union européenne et autres versèrent 500 millions de \$ US au cours de la première année de ce plan de 20 ans. La Banque mondiale accorda à ce projet le Prix d'excellence d'Afrique 2007.

THE LIST OF CANADIANS WORKING IN MADAGASCAR MUST BE QUITE SHORT! HOW DID YOUR WORK THERE TRANSPIRE?

In 1999, QMM (a Division of Rio Tinto) was seriously considering developing an ilmenite mine in the coastal zone of Anosy Region, a 16,000-square-kilometre region in southeast Madagascar, which has one of the richest deposits of ilmenite in the world. Given the potential impact of the ilmenite investments (US\$380 – 500 million), QMM realized that for the mining project to be successful, they would need to help the region achieve sustainable economic growth. Several key individuals at the World Bank recommended that QMM get my firm involved because of our substantial coastal and regional development planning experience.

WAS THE REGION FAIRLY WELL DEVELOPED AT THE TIME?

The Anosy Region is one of the poorest regions in Madagascar, which itself is one of the poorest countries in the world. More than 80 per cent of the people live below the national poverty line. The region suffers from 75-85 percent illiteracy, and the average income per year in 1999 was about \$185 per year (\$250 per year is the national average.) Over 90 percent of the original forests in Madagascar have been eliminated – a direct result of poverty – and levels of deforestation are still alarming. This has led to degradation of watersheds, rivers, coastal lagoons and soils.

Medical facilities are inadequate, and both adult morbidity and infant mortality rates are high, yet the population almost doubles every 10 years. The infrastructure is disintegrating. Some 80 percent of the roads that were useable 40 years ago are now impassable.

THE SITUATION SOUNDS EXTREMELY CHALLENGING. WERE THERE POSITIVE INDICATORS?

Despite low economic growth, the Anosy Region has high latent potential for development. Its 150-km coastline supports tourism, fisheries and agriculture and its biodiversity makes it an environmental hotspot. Ninety per cent of the flora is endemic to Madagascar, and there are five or six species of lemurs in the region. The Andohahela National Park is a stunning ecotourism destination which has garnered top international awards, yet just 150 people visit each year.

The region's Ranomafana Valley in itself holds over 125,000 ha of potential high-value agricultural lands. Currently only 1,000 ha are in use: roads are poor, and both agricultural infrastructure and local capacity are lacking.

WHAT WAS QMM'S INTEREST IN PLANNING?

A major hurdle for QMM was the financing of a port: the mining company could not undertake the whole investment – some \$120 million – by itself. But in the absence of any regional analysis and planning, the Government of Madagascar had no information upon which to consider a financial contribution. As well, since a mine would bring enormous change, QMM took seriously its corporate responsibility to help the region move forward.



HOW COULD SUCH A POOR COUNTRY FUND A PLANNING PROCESS?

A strong synergy can develop when large-scale mining companies act as a motor for regional development. QMM launched discussions with the World Bank Group, seeking support for preparation of a regional development strategy and investment action plan. The idea was to run a regional process parallel to – but independent of – QMM's Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) for the mine, which actually focused on a much smaller area and just seven communes (of some 38) within the Anosy Region. Over five years several key funders emerged, including the World Bank, the Japanese Trust Fund, USAID, and QMM (Rio Tinto).

YOU SPOKE OF 38 COMMUNES. DID YOU WORK THROUGH THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT TO REACH THE GRASSROOTS?

Quite the reverse. We initiated a new "bottom-up" planning approach, with a locally organized and democratically formed Committee for Regional Development (CRD). Who could better provide practical knowledge, we thought, than the people in the region whose very futures depended on it? These people were ready to take matters into their own hands. Local "champions" were key. The CRD provided a regional platform for discussion, and as a non-legal entity was an anomaly in Madagascar. Quite frankly, the central government had never dealt with such a group before. Eventually we worked in partnership with government who could see that the people were serious about their future and were trying to steer away from a "do-nothing" scenario.

HOW BROADLY DID YOU CAST YOUR NET?

The CRD included the local business community (hoteliers, tourist operators, mining representatives), environmental and social NGOs, Mayors and other representatives of the 38 participating communes, and regionally-based representatives of the national administration (such as Senators and the ministries of Mines, Education, Tourism, Transportation).

As in many places in Africa, this region is too poor for traditional single sector strategies. In the past, such strategies rarely achieved the intended results, because critical links to other sectors were missing.

HOW WAS THE CRD CONFIGURED?

I was privileged to become the Chief Technical Advisor (Planificateur principal) from 1999 – 2004. The regional planning process I designed was completely different than had ever been tried in Madagascar. Instead of bringing my consulting team for short trips, I formed an eight-person local team of Malagasy experts in the fields of economics, environment, social sciences, planning and information management (GIS), infrastructure and engineering.

We in turn formed a Technical Committee of about 40 local experts. To reinforce community leadership, we brought people together from the entire region – all 38 communes. We conducted workshops for the 350 members of the CRD and government and all interested parties to debate critical issues, such as environmental degradation, conservation, mining, and tourism, and to review our draft strategies and refine options. As part of everyday work, we undertook on-the-job training to build local expertise and leadership.

TRAINING FOR THE USE OF GIS-BASED SYSTEMS, FOR EXAMPLE?

To make key regional issues emerge and to emphasize the spatial issues and dimensions (watersheds, linkages across sectors, coincidence of sub-areas with high development potential), we required a regional information base (Geographic Information System) as well as satellite imagery. We introduced technologies and approaches including remote sensing, Spatial Development Strategies (SDS), and regional macro-economic modelling to help drive the planning.

As cornerstones to the planning, we prepared 20-year scenarios for conservation, restoration, agriculture, tourism, mining, fisheries, physical infrastructure and social infrastructure. These scenarios included practical investment and

costing worksheets as well as GIS-based maps illustrating the spatial distribution of the various initiatives. All of this was guided by the CRD and involved my local team of experts, with occasional assistance from the Technical Committee and the Canadian experts as necessary (development and environmental economists, statisticians and GIS experts.) Ultimately, we identified seven key multi-sectoral "growth poles and corridors" in the region – a development strategy never applied before in Madagascar or perhaps in other countries in Africa.

WHAT WERE THE KEY RESULTS OF THE PLANNING PROCESS?

The Regional Development Framework (RDF) and the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) indicate the seven growth poles and corridors where development needs to occur and identify priority projects – those that will strengthen urban-rural linkages and encourage both public and private investments.

DID THE PLANNING PROVOKE INVESTMENT?

In 1999, World Bank representatives labelled Anosy a "region with little or no hope" but as a result of this project, the World Bank in 2005 included Fort-Dauphin region as one of its three major "growth poles" in Madagascar (the others being Nosy Be and Antananarivo – Antsirabe): they will invest \$60 million in the Fort Dauphin port, urban and rural infrastructure and agricultural projects.

Our RDF outlined funding needs of \$715 million over 20 years. QMM, World Bank, US Aid, the Government of Madagascar, European Union and others have already obliged: \$500 million was committed in the first year of the 20-year plan.

HOW HAS THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT RESPONDED?

The President of Madagascar, seeing the Anosy results, eliminated the country's six provinces and created 22 new regions. He has asked that each prepare a regional development strategy like the Anosy Region RDF.

Equally important is the strong local capacity and leadership generated by the project. Three participants advanced to key positions in the national government as Chiefs of the Regions (within the newly established Decentralization Office for the Anosy and Menabe Regions); and the President of the CRD and the Prefet became Ministers of Interior and Decentralization respectively. My key planning assistant for four years is now a chief advisor to the President and leader of the major private sector development board in Madagascar.

ARE THERE OTHER LONG-TERM RESULTS?

The World Bank adopted the RDF and growth poles and corridors work for its Madagascar Growth Poles Project and the project received the Africa Excellence Award in 2007 as part of an internal World Bank competition.

It is worth noting that Rio Tinto (QMM) financed a substantial part of the program, particularly the process and facilitation side, which is often the defining factor in such situations, and the least well-recognized. The World Bank and others might look to this example of "high on process, low on dollars" as a role model for many other regional and mineral development interventions, particularly in countries with weak institutional capacity.

1 A YOUNG WOMAN WEARING TRADITIONAL CREAM TO PROTECT HER FACE FROM THE SUN AND MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL 2 THE SIFAKA LEMUR DOES NOT WALK OR RUN, BUT DANCES SIDWAYS 3 HERDING 4 THE RANOMAFANA VALLEY 5 JIM DOBBIN PUTS HIS WORKSHOP TEAM UP FRONT, PUSHING THEM TO BE LEADERS | 1 JEUNE FEMME PORTANT UNE CRÈME TRADITIONNELLE POUR PROTÉGER SON VISAGE DU SOLEIL ET L'EMBEILLIR 2 LE LÉMUR SIFAKA NE MARCHÉ ET NE COURT PAS, MAIS DANSE DE CÔTÉ 3 ÉLEVAGE 4 LA VALLÉE DE RANOMAFANA 5 JIM DOBBIN ENCOURAGE LES MEMBRES DE SON ÉQUIPE À DEVENIR DES LEADERS

“OFTEN, I WALK FOR HOURS...”



1 A FISHERWOMAN IN A REMOTE AREA 2 ANNUAL BURNING OF THE FORMERLY FORESTED COASTAL PLAIN HAS REINFORCED POVERTY 3 A LOCAL HOTEL IN TRANOMARO | 1 PÊCHEUSE D'UNE RÉGION ÉLOIGNÉE 2 L'INCENDIE ANNUEL DE L'ANCIENNE PLAINE CÔTIÈRE A AGGRAVÉ LA PAUVRETÉ 3 HÔTEL LOCAL À TRANOMARO

PHOTOS JAMES DOBBIN

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During the first three years of the Anosy Region project, Jim Dobbin commuted from Washington, DC to Fort Dauphin every month (without missing a month), spending about three weeks in the country each month. LANDSCAPES | PAYSAGES asked him to describe a typical day on the job. Jim writes. . .

There is no typical day in Madagascar – but there’s no question about the best part of my job, the amazing field work – like the three-week safari-type camping trip around the Anosy Region with a team of geologists, ecologists and hydrologists.

I work at both ends of the spectrum – from formal, high-level meetings with officials and investors to very informal work sessions. In one memorable 24-hour period, I joined mining executives and flew from Antananarivo to Fort Dauphin in an eight-seat Citation jet to gain an aerial view of the region. We met with the Chief of the Region – he is like a governor – and with local leaders to hear their views; we lunched on the beach in beautiful and simple bahia structures and then flew back to the Antananarivo to meet with the Prime Minister. The day concluded with a wonderful Malagasy/French meal.

Most days are at the other end of the formality scale. I head to my office on my mountain bike, with my computer in my back pack. My office in the Fort Dauphin Chambre du Commerce is the site of our work sessions and meetings with local leaders, the Committee for Regional Development, and my

permanent technical team: it is a six- to eight-person, all-Malagasy team.

We conduct smaller, narrowly focused work sessions as well, and everything is done in all three languages – English, French and Malagasy. It’s important to show community leaders and citizens the data, maps and satellite imagery and discuss the interconnected issues.

Each evening, I try to connect to the internet at 4,800 bps: lines are often cut. It takes about two hours to correspond with family, friends and clients.

But far and away the best times are out in the villages. The magnificent landscape has been highly degraded by massive shift and burn agriculture [tavy], the deforestation and burning for zebu grazing [cattle]. Its productivity has been largely destroyed. Many people are on the verge of disaster when the rains come and floods wash away their only food.

Yet the landscape is still magnificent. Often, I walk for hours just getting a feel for what has happened to the landscape over time. In the field, we cross rivers, one vehicle at a time, on makeshift barges (some are made of rubber tubes.) Sometimes, we help the Malagasy pull the barge across the river. Other evenings we camp in a quiet area close to a village, buying what we need from local people. We find out more about their lives and share ideas of what we all can do to help the area work its way out of poverty and grow.



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The position will be available on July 1, 2009. Consideration of candidates will commence on October 1, 2008, and will continue until the position is filled. Please visit www.apsc.ubc.ca/prospective_faculty/ for updates on the status of the position. Interested candidates should submit an application package that consists of a statement of interest, a current curriculum vitae, a portfolio of professional/academic accomplishment including a statement of research priorities and a record of teaching effectiveness, and the names and addresses of four referees to:

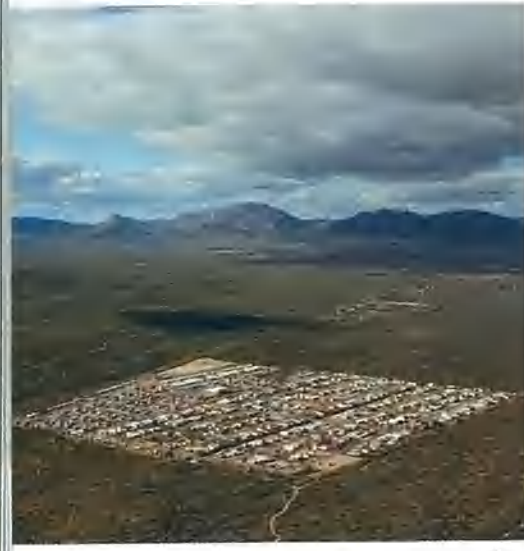
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Applications should be sent by e-mail only to recruitment@apsc.ubc.ca (only Word or pdf files, set for printing on letter-size paper, should be attached).

The position is subject to final budgetary approval. The University of British Columbia hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

VISUALIZING DENSITY

READ BY | LU PAR SHIONA SOMMERVILLE



1

Visualizing Density
by | par Julie Campoli
and Alex S. MacLean
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy,
Cambridge, MA, 2007
160 pages, incl. CD –
the density catalogue
ISBN 978-1-55844-171-9

THIS IS WHERE AMERICA LIVES

For those of you who peer down at cities and towns, face pressed against the glass of your platter-sized airplane window, this book is sheer pleasure. For a more expansive look at where and how we live, look no further.

Campoli (landscape architect and planner) and MacLean (aerial photographer schooled at Harvard's GSD) work from the premises that we cannot continue the numbing sprawl of single-family homes built on half-acre lots across a diminishing landscape; and that to halt the monotony, we need tools to overcome people's fears of density. (Dense neighbourhoods are ugly and cramped.) A third essential premise sets the course of the book. It is bad design – not more density – that we should avoid. As this richly illustrated volume shows, some lower density neighbourhoods are perfectly awful. With good design, higher density has many advantages over lower density.

Visualizing Density begins with a sobering essay on the land use challenges facing the United States (and although absolute numbers differ, it is the same relative case in Canada.) This first section includes a listing of density trends: some good, such as creating outdoor rooms and tucking parking spaces under housing units, and some bad – the stack 'em and pack 'em approach. And it presents a catalogue of aerial photos of more than 250 neighbourhoods across the United States. The neighbourhoods range in density from less than one unit per acre (at the lower end, Phoenix, AZ at 0.5 units/acre) to over 200 units per acre (San Francisco, CA and New York, NY at 222 and 296 units/acre respectively.) The authors include four photos of each location: bird's-eye, context, neighbourhood, and plan views.

A CATALOGUE WHICH INTRIGUES

What intrigues, looking at the catalogue, are two observations. Good design and the allocation of public amenities are not in reverse progression from low to high density. And within a narrow range of densities – from three to four units/acre, say – there is an astonishingly diverse range of design approaches. One quibble: the catalogue would be improved by the identification of individual neighbourhoods within cities and towns to satisfy curious

minds: the same city can appear in the catalogue at varying densities.

The book is not about preaching to the converted. The book's catalogue is intended for land use professionals to use as a visual tool when they go out to the public to talk about projects. The catalogue grew out of a one-day workshop that Campoli and MacLean teach at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. However, that being the case, the book lacks an explanation about how and when to use the visual catalogue in a public session. Such an addition would be helpful to those of us who work to manage multi-stakeholder discussions about contentious issues.

FIVE UNIVERSAL FACTORS

For that reason, I spoke with both authors earlier this year. Campoli and MacLean clarified that in their workshops (which include a broad array of stakeholders) they ask participants to pair up, and to choose one of a selection of project photos, featuring different sites with different densities. Teams rate the neighbourhoods in the photos – simply, what they like, what they do not like – and present their opinions to the group. The authors have found there are five universal factors that determine preferences: green infrastructure, circulation, public/private spaces, lack of monotony/diversity, chances for social interactions – not density at all. These same factors repeat with varied audiences and in different places all across the country.

What is the particular lesson landscape architects should take away from this book? Campoli and MacLean are strong advocates that good design can counter the possible drawbacks of density, utilizing amenities such as carefully proportioned public spaces, enveloping green infrastructure, and smart street and sidewalk networks. If the gross issues (demographic change, land valuation, etc.) do not compel us to focus on designing for density, landscape architects will be drawn in by the nuanced interrelations of buildings and streets, the intricacy of architectural forms, and the beguiling green oases. With soaring fuel prices and growing carbon footprints, this is eco-armchair travelling at its best.

RECOMMENDED

Visualizing Density made Planetizen's Top 10 Books for 2008 and Choice magazine's Outstanding Academic Titles list for 2007.

Campoli and MacLean also co-authored *Above and Beyond*, an argument for traditional development patterns. Campoli is working on a street-level sequel to *Visualizing Density*, and hopes to include Canadian examples.

For a sampling of MacLean's photography and a listing of his books, see www.landslides.com.

For a density quiz and other density tools, see the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (under resources and tools, *Visualizing Density*), www.lincolninstitute.edu.

1 CONGRESS, AZ – THIS QUARTER-SQUARE-MILE MIXED MOBILE HOME AND PERMANENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT 60 MILES FROM PHOENIX SITS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT. IT CONSOLIDATES ALL NECESSARY PUBLIC SERVICES INTO ITS SMALL COMMUNITY. 2 CASTRO VALLEY, CA – THIS DEVELOPMENT, ONLY ACCESSIBLE BY CAR, ADDED HUNDREDS OF NEW HOUSING UNITS REQUIRING MILES OF NEW ROADS, SEWERS, WATER AND ELECTRIC LINES. 3 GLENDALE, AZ USES RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEMS TO STORE OUTSIDE WATER IN EXISTING GROUND WELLS OR AQUIFERS. 4 HENDERSON, NV, A SUBURB 15 MILES OUTSIDE OF LAS VEGAS, IS NOW NEVADA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY. DEVELOPERS USE ASSEMBLY LINE-INSPIRED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS. PHOTOS COPYRIGHT 2008 ALEX S. MACLEAN



2-3-4

Landscape architects will be drawn in by the nuanced inter-relations of buildings and streets...

BEYOND OUR BORDERS | AU-DELÀ DES FRONTIÈRES



version française: www.AAPC.CA | english version: www.CSLA.CA

1 JAMES R. TAYLOR was presented with the CSLA's Schwabenbauer Award in 2008 in recognition of unselfish service at the national level. Jim's leadership was instrumental in establishing the profession in the prairies, in initiating closer collaboration between ASLA and CSLA, and in expanding our reach, both by establishing university programs and by building global networks through the IFLA.
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6 SARAH MCCANS held a CIDA/Canadian Institute of Planners WorldLink Internship in Kampala, Uganda where she was attached to the Making the Edible Landscape Project, a joint initiative of IDRC and McGill University. In 2007, Sarah held a 12-month IDRC Research Internship Award with the Centre's Urban Poverty & Environment program initiative.
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7 JAMES DOBBIN established Dobbin International Inc. in 1976 to provide advice on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). He has led projects in over 35 countries, incorporating the principles of sustainable development for large regions and sensitive areas for International Financial Institutions (IFIs), NGOs, US and Canadian government agencies and private sector clients.
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8 SHIQNA SOMMERVILLE is a certified planner in Cambridge, MA. She is currently doing research at Harvard University, in cooperation with the Consensus Building Institute, which looks at group process approaches to resolve the issues of density and urban intensification.
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9 NATALIE WALLISER is a 2007 BLA graduate from the University of Guelph who spent six months in Otjimbingwe, Namibia as an environmental officer with CIDA's International Youth Internship Program.
nwalliser@gmail.com

10 & 11 BRIGITTE BINET AND WENDY GRAHAM, in collaboration with Judy "Editor" Lord, André and Anke Guérin at eurotranslation and the patient production house people at Naylor, have been overseeing some of the recent design changes to the magazine. BRIGITTE is the in-house graphic designer with Groupe Cardinal Hardy in Montréal and has developed a unique niche: the graphic formatting of architecture, landscaping and urban design projects. Her many talents have been put to good use for our front cover design and in refining LIP's overall look.
wgraham@ville.montreal.qc.ca
B.Binet@cardinal-hardy.ca PHOTO 11 JEAN LANDRY

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Before Otjimbingwe could consider tourism, however, it needed to become a healthy community. I worked with an English consultant, Annie Symons, to introduce market gardening. A full-scale community garden along the river bed might one day supply tourist lodges. We also hoped to start a seed bank that would include medicinal plants such as Devil's Claw, but before the project could interest funders, Annie needed to find a potential market. She was still at it when I left, and also helping develop crafts and local artwork.

BEYOND THE MATRIX

In time, in the Otjimbingwe we all envisioned, tourists might stay at a community campsite or lodge and go on a game drive safari. It all sounded lovely on paper, laid out step by step in phases with a well-designed plan, sketches and accompanying matrix. The reality, however, was quite different. Such projects take an extremely long time to implement. Community members are becoming disenchanted with people like me who come and go, leaving behind empty promises. Funding is required; government cooperation must be won; transporting supplies is a challenge. Even the idea of introducing game is iffy: will it be hunted and eaten by starving families? Outreach projects ultimately depend on finding local people with management skills.

THE UNDER 30s

Yet there was value in the posting. I was inspired and moved by the enthusiasm of young Namibians. In a nation with such a low life expectancy, youth have tremendous responsibilities. They are fiercely dedicated to their communities and eager to learn. They attended every meeting, volunteered for positions, voiced concerns and asked questions. Over many shared meals, they explained how excited they were after meetings with Annie and I. Their only wish was that they could accelerate the process.

I was inspired, too, by expatriates working in health care, environment, climate change or micro finance – most of whom were under 30. Like me, I'm sure they felt a social obligation to contribute. And as I prepared to come home again, I reflected on my initial interview for the position. I had explained what a landscape architect was, and why a landscape architect was exactly what they needed – a steward of the land with a passion for the environment and a diverse skill set. I made the right choice to go. Landscape architects can do a world of good.



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IT'S A LONG AND WINDING ROAD...
LA ROUTE EST LONGUE ET CLAIRESEMÉE D'EMBÛCHES...

NATALIE WALLISER

Une fois son diplôme en architecture de paysage en poche, Natalie Walliser décida de mettre le cap sur la Namibie pour travailler à titre d'agente de l'environnement bénévole dans le cadre du Programme de stages internationaux pour les jeunes de l'ACDI. Même si la collectivité rurale d'Otjimbingwe où elle œuvra n'avait aucune industrie, ce village désirait devenir une destination touristique. Pour bâtir une collectivité saine, M^{me} Walliser essaya de développer la culture maraîchère. Elle se rendit toutefois vite à l'évidence que la mise en œuvre de tels projets demande du temps. M^{me} Walliser fut néanmoins inspirée et fascinée par l'enthousiasme manifesté par les jeunes Namibiens. Elle repartit convaincue que les architectes paysagistes peuvent réaliser des choses fort bénéfiques.

In April 2007, I finally completed my BLA from the University of Guelph. The future was wide open; I was overwhelmed, but like many graduates, uninspired by the idea of sitting in an office doing CAD.

Serendipitously, the Canadian International Development Agency was looking for an environmental officer to work in Namibia as part of the International Youth Internship Program, which offers post-secondary graduates the opportunity to volunteer in developing countries. With nothing to lose, I applied. Exactly a month later, I was selected to spend six months in southern Africa.

The reality did not hit me until September when I was alone and flying over a Martian landscape – red earth, sparse vegetation, and no sign of habitations for miles and miles. This was Namibia.

I was based out of Windhoek, the capital city, where 230,000 of the 1.8 million Namibians live. Racial tension is still noticeable in the post-apartheid era... something that caught me completely off guard as a naïve young Canadian. Namibia gained its independence from South Africa in 1990, but the country is wrestling with corruption, tribalism, AIDS and a 40 percent unemployment rate. Nonetheless, the warmth and hospitality of Namibians is unrivalled.

I worked primarily in the rural community of Otjimbingwe in the Erongo region. Rhenish missionaries from Germany settled there in the 1860s; by the late 1880s, the town was declared the capital. However, government administration shifted towards Windhoek, and when the railroad line bypassed Otjimbingwe to connect Windhoek to the Atlantic coast, the town's population began to decline.

NO INDUSTRY, NO JOBS

Otjimbingwe is located on an ephemeral river, and today, there is no industry to speak of. Some history remains: a church, powder magazine, and many original German buildings. The people hope the history will act as a stepping stone, helping them create a tourism destination.

I worked with the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program formed by USAID, Endangered Wildlife Trust, WWF, and the Canadian Ambassador's Fund. The project promotes sustainable natural resource management by giving local communities the right to create conservancies, and thereby work with private companies to build a tourism market (WWF, 2006).

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GIRAFFE.
PHOTO NATALIE WALLISER



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