

# SHRINKING CITIES EXPANDING LANDSCAPES

Conference | Exhibitions on Urban Depopulation

November 2013

Edinburgh College of Art | University of Edinburgh

SHRINKING CITIES  
EXPANDING  
LANDSCAPES



## SHRINKING CITIES | EXPANDING LANDSCAPES

Throughout history, cities have experienced cyclical periods of construction and destruction according to different population needs, economic growth/decline, immigration/emigration, war, disease and natural disasters. Urban morphology is often defined by these periods of growth and decline, both of which leave traces in the physical manifestation of a city.

During the latter half of the twentieth century, 350 cities worldwide suffered a decrease in population. The United Nations predicts that for the next 100 years the growth rate of the world's population will markedly decrease compared to the population increase seen in the twentieth century. Depopulation in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries is having a profound impact on city form and function, including increased urban fragmentation and perforation; social segregation; public and private disinvestment; decreased social creativity and innovation; reduced accessibility to education, health services and employment; and changes to the urban ecological function.

As a consequence of the Shrinking Cities phenomenon, researchers and practitioners are increasingly exploring the concept and promise of an Expanding Landscape within cities. This expanding landscape includes the patchwork of abandoned, vacant, or underutilised properties that are just one consequence of depopulation. This unintended "production" of voids can be considered an opportunity with multiple modes of expression.

*Rua da Junqueira*  
Lisbon, 2011  
Francisca Lima



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROGRAMME.....	6
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS.....	8
Prof. Karina Pallagst	
Dr. Anna Jorgensen	
Prof. Ali Madanipour	
PANEL SESSIONS.....	14
Paola Sabbion & Gian Luca Porcile	
Evangelia Athanassiou	
Lisa Moffitt	
John Bingham-Hall	
Caterina Borelli	
Stefanie Roessler	
Galen D. Newman	
Kees Lokman	
Sandra Albro & Sean Burkholder	
William L. Allen, III	
Alessandro Coppola	
Joern Langhorst & Jeremy Nemeth	
EXHIBITIONS.....	26
Shrinking Cities   Expanding Landscapes	
SaltCities: Drawing the City of Unsure Ground	
MAPS & VENUES GUIDE.....	32
ORGANISING COMMITTEE & REVIEW COMMITTEE.....	33

From the series *LOST HOUSES*  
Filipe Condado

#### 4-16 NOVEMBER 2013

Exhibitions: Shrinking Cities | Expanding Landscapes & The Saltcities: Drawing the City of Unsure Ground (venue SC)

#### THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2013

17.00-18.00 Public Keynote Address (venue MLT)  
*Shrinking Cities: Urban Challenges in an International Context*  
Prof. Karina Pallagst | Kaiserslautern University of Technology

18.00-20.00 Conference/Exhibitions reception (venue SC)

#### FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2013

09.00-09.30 Registration (with coffee/tea/juice and snacks) (venue OB)

09.30-10.30 Keynote Presentation (venue MLT)  
*Shrinking Cities / Rethinking Landscape (Architecture)*  
Dr. Anna Jorgensen | The University of Sheffield

10.30-11.00 Morning Break (coffee/tea/juice) (venue OB)

11.00-13.00 Panel Session 1 (venue MLT)  
Moderator\_Suzanne Ewing | University of Edinburgh

*The Essence of Landscape*  
Paola Sabbion and Gian Luca Porcile | Università di Genova

*Public Space in Thessaloniki in the Context of Crisis: From Urban Competitiveness to Urban Agriculture*  
Evangelia Athanassiou | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

*Shifting Terrain: Entropic Design in Postindustrial Landscapes*  
Lisa Moffitt | University of Edinburgh

13.00-14.00 Lunch (venue OB)

14.00-15.30 Panel Session 2 (venue MLT)  
Moderator\_Tahl Kaminer | University of Edinburgh

*Situated Urban Research Detroit: Looking Beyond the "Post-Apocalyptic" City Through Action Research*  
John Bingham-Hall | University College London

*Secrets of the Underbrush: Exploring Mount Trebević a Tormented, Expanding Landscape Around Sarajevo*  
Caterina Borelli | Independent Scholar

*The Shrinking City – A Green City? Opportunities and Constraints for Green Space Development*  
Stefanie Roessler | Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban And Regional Development (IOER)

15.30-16.00 Afternoon Break (coffee/tea/juice and snacks) (venue OB)

16.00-17.30 Panel Session 3 (venue MLT)  
Moderator\_Catharine Ward Thompson | University of Edinburgh

*Urban Shrapnel: Spatial Distribution of Non-Productive Space in Expanding Cities*  
Galen D. Newman | Texas A&M University

*Vacancy as a Laboratory: Toward an Urban Land Ethic*  
Kees Lokman | Washington University in St. Louis

*Mind the Gap: Opportunities for Stormwater Management and Neighbourhood Stabilization in Urban Communities with Gap-Tooth Vacancy*  
Sandra Albro | Cleveland Botanical Garden & Sean Burkholder | University at Buffalo | SUNY

19.00+ Conference Dinner and Ceilidh (optional) (venue GD)

#### SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2013

09.00-09.30 Morning Welcome (coffee/tea/juice and snacks) (venue OB)

09.30-11.30 Panel Session 4 (venue MLT)  
Moderator\_Tiago Torres Campos | University of Edinburgh

*A Green Infrastructure Framework for Shrinking Cities: Creating Functional Landscapes from Underutilised Lands*  
William L. Allen, III | The Conservation Fund

*A Cleveland Model? Experiments in Alternative Urbanism in the Rustbelt*  
Alessandro Coppola | Politecnico di Milano

*No Vacancy? Shrinking Cities and the Temporary Use Model*  
Joern Langhorst & Jeremy Nemeth | University of Colorado Denver

11.30-12.00 Morning Break (coffee/tea/juice and snacks) (venue OB)

12.00-13.00 Keynote Presentation (venue MLT)  
*Space-Time-Institution Gaps, Temporary Interventions*  
Prof. Ali Madanipour | Newcastle University

13.00-13.30 Closing (venue MLT)

PROFESSOR KARINA PALLAGST, PhD  
University Professor for International Planning Systems  
Kaiserslautern University of Technology



Karina Pallagst is Professor for International Planning Systems at Kaiserslautern University's faculty of Spatial Planning. Previously she worked at UC Berkeley's Center for Global Metropolitan Studies (GMS) and the Institute of Urban and Regional Development (IURD) as the Program Director of the Shrinking Cities International Research Group. Prior to this appointment she was a senior research specialist at the Dresden-based Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER). Prof. Pallagst holds a PhD from Kaiserslautern University and a post-doctoral degree from Dresden Technical University. Her research focuses on international comparative urban development, shrinking cities, urban growth, planning cultures, and planning theory. She serves on numerous think tanks, working groups and committees regarding spatial planning and international urban development. She is also a co-founder of the Shrinking Cities International Research Network (SCiRN).

## Shrinking Cities: Urban Challenges in an International Context

When investigating shrinking cities one encounters a manifold of striking loose ends regarding what the shrinkage of cities or regions means: is it a taboo, a planning paradigm, a research agenda, a justification for bulldozing abandoned quarters, or "old wine in new bottles"? There is meanwhile consensus that urban shrinkage is a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing regions, cities, and parts of cities or metropolitan areas that are experiencing a dramatic decline in their economic and social bases, and are facing population losses. The causes of this urban decline are manifold and complex.

While deindustrialization is one of the many dimensions of urban change, other common characteristics to urban shrinkage are poverty, formal capital disinvestment or lack of capital investment, local fiscal deficits, disappearance of the knowledge base, and the increasing reliance on informal economies and social capital for subsistence.

While there is an extensive planning debate in some European countries about shrinking cities, the phenomenon has for many years been overlooked in international comparative research. Nevertheless, a great deal has been written on the topic of policies and planning strategies for shrinking cities since the turn of the millennium, and in the course of the debate on shrinking cities the focus has developed from a one theme issue to a policy field which incorporates a range of themes.

The presentation will introduce cases of shrinking cities from around the globe. The work is part of the Shrinking Cities International Research Network (SCiRN) whose collaborative work aims to understand different types of city shrinkage under different socio-economic and political conditions and the role that different approaches, policies and strategies have in the regeneration of these cities. In this way, the lecture will inform a rich diversity of analytical perspectives and country-based studies of the challenges faced by shrinking cities today.

Preliminary questions to be addressed are:

- What are the different effects of city shrinkage in terms of demographics, economies, social life, and urban form?
- What urban and regional policies, programs and strategies have been applied in addressing the problem of shrinking cities?
- Which assumptions, concepts, values and practices of planning and development need revision in view of the shrinking cities phenomena?

ANNA JORGENSEN, PhD  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Landscape  
The University of Sheffield



Anna Jorgensen is a Senior Lecturer in Landscape at the University of Sheffield. She is the editor of the Routledge book *Urban Wildscapes*, and an Associate Editor of the refereed journal *Landscape Research*. Anna's research deals with the social uses and meanings of wild urban green spaces, together with the wider benefits of these spaces, including their psychological impact on stress-relief and their role in green infrastructure. She is also interested in landscape theory, including landscape aesthetics, and in inter-disciplinary research. She is currently involved in F3UES – Fragments, Functions and Flows – a NERC-funded project looking at the relationship between urban biodiversity and ecosystem services.

## Shrinking Cities | Rethinking Landscape (Architecture)

Superficial consideration of the conference title *Shrinking Cities | Expanding Landscapes* suggests further musings on subjects that have been in vogue recently: ruins, loose space, urban wilderness, *terroir* vague... but this quickly gives way to something more profound. The title addresses fundamental questions relating to the relationship between nature and culture, entropy and order, the country and the city, vernacular and planned landscapes, first world and the global south and so on.

This talk will seek to untangle the discourses surrounding urban shrinkage and to investigate their implications for the ways in which we think of landscape, and landscape architecture. As a first step towards this disentangling

it will challenge the idea of the 'shrinking city' and 'expanding landscape'. Are cities really shrinking, or are they just shifting or becoming more dispersed? Are landscapes expanding or contracting, or are they just changing? How do imaginaries such as 'the compact city' and the urban 'sublime' relate to ideas of shrinkage and expansion?

Landscape architecture has responded variously to this uncertain context: landscape urbanism places more emphasis on programme and process at the expense of form and masterplan, the post-industrial landscape aesthetic appears to challenge conventional ideas of landscape beauty; and there is a preoccupation with place and authenticity, and a desire to use landscape in a very localized way to reconnect people with each other and with nature. But to what extent do these strategies address landscape futures, and to what extent are they a reaction to the perceived shortcomings of modernism and other 20th century urban projects, to austerity budgets, to globalization, to the global environmental crisis, the privatization of public space, cultures of consumption and nostalgia for places to which we can belong?

What are the challenges posed by the fluidity of cities and how might landscape architecture meet those challenges? How effective are the previously identified landscape architectural strategies, and are there others that we might adopt? What do re-conceptualizations of landscape and landscape architecture imply for the role of the profession? The rest of this talk will examine these questions from a number of perspectives including:

- Infrastructures for living
- Civic expression
- Cultural landscapes
- Heritage
- Wilderness

This talk will argue that the shrinking city phenomenon provides an opportunity to rethink not just the relative quantities of grey and green but also their fundamental relationship and characteristics as settings for life.

PROFESSOR ALI MADANIPOUR, PhD

Professor of Urban Design, Director of Global Urban Research Unit  
School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape  
Newcastle University



Ali Madanipour is Professor of Urban Design and the Director of Global Urban Research Unit (GURU) at the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University. He has studied (MArch, PhD), practised, and conducted research in architecture, urban design and planning. In 2010 he was the City of Vienna Senior Visiting Professor at Vienna Technical University and in 2011 the Wits-Claude Leon Distinguished Scholar at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg. His recent books are *Whose Public Space?* (2010), *Knowledge Economy and the City* (2011), and *Public Space and the Challenges of Urban Transformation in Europe* (in press), all published by Routledge, London.

## Space-Time-Institution Gaps, Temporary Interventions

The current global crisis and the longer term structural changes in urban societies have created spatial, temporal and institutional gaps, which are sometimes filled by temporary interventions. These gaps and interventions are ambivalent in nature, as they can be used as vehicles for moving simultaneously in different political, economic and cultural directions. Through three interrelated and overlapping dimensions, this paper critically investigates the temporary use of space and its contribution in coping with the global crisis as reflected in urban development and management.

The ambivalence of the in-between, of emptiness and ephemerality, may be used pragmatically, addressing the mismatch between demand and supply of space, filling the power vacuums and spatial-temporal gaps as an interim measure. It can also be used in a transformative capacity, rethinking the character of urban space, developing a critique of the status quo, becoming a catalyst for change, a stepping stone to more stable arrangements, and facilitating experimentation and innovation in urban planning and design. Meanwhile, it may reflect transience, an inherent feature of modern urban life, as characterized by the ever present ephemerality, routine repetition of the in-between interventions, ever faster speed of change, and precariousness and uncertainty caused by globalization. The three states of temporary use of space are not mutually exclusive; they overlap and interrelate, one can lead to another, and all can be present at the same time. They amount to an approach to urban space and its transformation, which is cautious, insecure, flexible, innovative, incoherent and contradictive, with considerable intended and unintended consequences for how cities are built and inhabited.

## The Essence of Absence

PAOLA SABBION  
PhD Candidate  
DSA Scuola Politecnica  
Università di Genova

GIAN LUCA PORCILE, PhD  
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DSA Scuola Politecnica  
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"How does one think of nothing? How to think of nothing without automatically putting something round that nothing?" (Perec 2008).

The void has a multiple nature, which correlates different planes of existence, creating a high number of possible combinations, this increase the difficulties in conceiving the void: an attitude of denial and rejection of the absence that could be a cultural limit of our era. The matter is not to define the void on the basis of its future functions but according to its intrinsic usefulness. But in order that "the nothing" could be regarded as a tool and then become possible to find its usefulness, it is essential to understand the depth of his nature.

It is perhaps in the literature that it is possible to find some suggestions to respond to the challenges of the shrinking cities, also considering that many of the categories of architectural theory are not adequate to consider and manage the growing presence of the void.

It may be useful to reconsider the criticism that Georges Perec, has addressed to a cultural system so focused on the concept of "function" to make even impossible to find adequate words to define the absence as an element of re-starting, which is useful in its a-functionality as the premise of a rebirth.

A city is not an isotropic mass and it needs a set of interconnected places of different weights. In those cases in which the "dilution" of density of inhabitants and functions is likely to endanger the very existence of a part of the city, the "absence" can become a necessary tool for planning, or, more generally, to manage a shrinking city.

The rapidity of the economic changes has been able to create voids within and on the edge of the city in a relatively short time. The development of the landscape has a close relationship with the times of nature and it is just approaching to the rhythms of nature that the void can become an opportunity.

The "positive tension" between an empty area and the district on which it borders can then become a place of extraordinary interest from the point of view of perception, art and culture. The "residual vitality beyond the void" focuses on the edges, where the suggestions related to the mystery of an absence may take shape.

## Public Space in Thessaloniki in the Context of Crisis: From Urban Competitiveness to Urban Agriculture

EVANGELIA ATHANASSIOU  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Architecture  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

In the context of economic crisis, Greek cities experience transformations in their economic, social and environmental fabric. Open public spaces, apart from being the theater of increasing poverty and social insurgence, become contested terrains on which diverting trends are in force. On the one hand, the central government and local authorities fully endorse the rhetoric of urban competitiveness in a global market and view public urban land as a means towards improving the city's image and as fertile fields for the production of revenue. On the other hand, reinvented urban communities reassert the public nature of public space in the city, experimenting new ways of survival, collectivity and representation.

The first trend transforming public space in Greek cities takes shape in a multi scalar manner originating from the global pervasiveness of the neoliberal dogma. The dogma is aggressively pursued in the economic adjustment programme for Greece, transferred in Greek planning legislation, enacted in a variety of ways by both the state and the local authorities. Active policies relating to public space include redevelopment of spaces with high visibility, privatizing public land, ceding responsibility of management to the private sector, applying stricter regulation of use, exerting violent repression on public dissent.

The second trend points at the opposite direction. Public space becomes the focal point of urban movements, campaigns and networks. Themes and claims vary from single issue campaigns, e.g, promoting the rights of pedestrians or cyclists, to more composite claims triggered by the adversities of everyday life in cities in crisis.

The paper discusses these two diverting trends as they materialise in the city of Thessaloniki during the last 3 years. First, it records the two trends and outlines their basic constituents, tenets and practices. Second, it focuses on abandoned military camps within the densely built fabric of Thessaloniki as contested terrains, exemplifying the tension between the quest for economic revenue and the actual re-inhabiting of public space by urban communities, in the context of crisis. Abandoned military camps, as public land, currently face the prospect of privatisation and development, with a view to contributing towards the repayment of public debt and the rebooting of Greek economy. Two such camps, which still remain idle and derelict after years of deliberations regarding their property status, are currently being farmed by ad hoc collectives. They view farming as a transitional use, safeguarding public land from exploitative development, and an active way of promoting its function as public space.

## Shifting Terrain: Entropic Design in Postindustrial Landscapes

LISA MOFFITT  
Lecturer in Architectural Design  
ESALA  
University of Edinburgh

As a result of increased interest in environmental performance and energy efficiency, some have argued that architecture is taking a 'thermodynamic turn'. Increased use of the term entropy to describe postindustrial landscapes suggests that landscape architecture might be informed by or might be taking a parallel turn. This paper explores how entropy in post-industrial urban landscapes is understood by land artist Robert Smithson, cultural geographer Matthew Gandy, and art historian John Beardsley. For Smithson, 'maximum entropy' was marked by extreme temporalities, natural and synthetic material juxtaposition, and was explicitly not ecological. For Gandy, entropy suggested spatial, social and disciplinary indeterminacy, raising questions about design authorship. Beardsley suggests using 'entropy' as a narrative device to recentre the discipline of landscape architecture beyond discourse in ecology. This paper builds on these interpretations and describes a nascent conceptual framework and corresponding design techniques that facilitate 'entropic design' exploration. In this framework, entropy is understood as not ecological; as spatially and disciplinarily indeterminate; and as requiring design methods that facilitate active engagement with material processes. The research operates in two related strands: writing that explores the use of entropy in postindustrial landscapes and time-based video and stop motion spatial 'experiments' that visually explore techniques for entropic design exploration.

## Situated Urban Research Detroit: Looking beyond the "Post-Apocalyptic" City Through Action Research

JOHN BINGHAM-HALL  
PhD student  
Bartlett School of Graduate Studies  
UCL

Detroit is the flagship shrinking city, as much embedded now into popular culture via "ruin porn" photography coffee-table books (Marchand and Meffre 2010) and films (Tillon 2011) as it is into the discourse of urbanism.

The popular imagery of Detroit holds it up as an object of morbid fascination, fulfilling a similar role to the disaster film in reminding us of the mortality of the cities and societies. The film *Detroit Wild City* focuses on the dramatic thinning of the city's built land coverage, with a misty-eyed documentation of its supposed re-colonisation by nature. This gives rise to the popular subculture of "urban exploration", particularly focused on Detroit, which is led to believe by these portrayals that the city is so de-populated and de-constructed it can be treated as a playground for experiential, artistic and social experimentation.

Situated Urban Research Detroit started with a fascination with these myths and became a desire to experience how it is to live in a shrinking city. In collaboration with photographer Lucinda Chua, the author initiated a journalistic field study of daily life in the city. A local gallery in Detroit agreed to host a temporary open studio, with an open invitation to Detroiters to tell us their stories and suggest leads. This culminated in an open exhibition in the gallery, telling a story of the city back to those who lived there, and an online section in popular design magazine *Wallpaper* where a global audience came into contact with the images and accompanying texts. This presentation will show a project portraying a much more nuanced city than that of the disaster scenarios, as the leads it followed came from those who lived in and loved the city rather than ruin voyeurs. Undoubtedly inner Detroit has seen a huge de-concentration with many buildings left to rot or burned for insurance. However documentation was of resilient, dense urban neighbourhoods, a busy national football game right in Downtown, various types of gardening projects from community to corporate level, an abundance of artisans and small manufacturers in the old factories and a great provision of leisure facilities for cycling and walking, which made the most of the landscapes now emerged from under the concrete. Most notably, it became clear that the famous ruins of the city had to be hunted down and were by no means the abiding image of a challenged but fascinating shrinking city.

## Secrets of the Underbrush: Exploring Mount Trebević, a Tormented, Expanding Landscape around Sarajevo

CATERINA BORELLI, PhD  
Anthropologist, Independent scholar

Mount Trebević is an imposing mountain that overlooks Sarajevo from the south-east: a natural reserve rich in flora and fauna, which in the XX<sup>e</sup> century became the privileged destination for Sarajevans' day trips, slowly transfiguring into a powerful symbol of the city. The deep bond between the city and its mountain, materialized in the popular cable car that used to connect the urban centre with the first ridge, reached its highest moment with the Winter Games in 1984, when Trebević was nominated as an Olympic venue hosting bob sleigh competitions. But as war broke out in 1992, its area was occupied by Serb-Bosnian troops, becoming one of the main enclaves that the city was besieged from. During the three and a half years of conflict, all the facilities were destroyed and today the landscape still wears the unequivocal scars of the actions that took place there. In 1995, Dayton Peace Agreements froze the frontline; since then the Inter Entity Boundary Line, which separates the Croat-Muslim Federation from Republika Srpska, runs through the mountain.

Before the war, the Trebević area worked as a connector between the several human settlements scattered in its territory, whose inhabitants belong to different ethno-religious communities (mainly Bosniaks and Serbs) and used to treat each other in terms of "neighbours" (komšije). The mountain used to be considered as the natural extension of the city of Sarajevo, a sort of huge urban park more than a wild forest, where social exchanges followed the rules of urbanity. For the same reason it can be stated that, before the war, the symbolic boundaries of the city reached a wider area, which included at least the northern half of Mount Trebević. The war violently interrupted the semantic chain that linked the city and the mountain; in the post-war period such connection hasn't been restored yet, due basically to a huge set of traumatic memories, which in turn are materially reinforced by the presence of several minefields and the internal border itself. These two elements de facto ripped a vital piece of territory from the city, cut down the connection between the different local communities, and at the same time turned the mountain into a ghost landscape, bringing it back to an ancestral state of wilderness. Nowadays Sarajevo is a one-way expanding city: its eastern part, the Old Town, cannot be further urbanized and has shrunk on its south-eastern side, having literally lost ground to a newly wild and hostile territory.

## The Shrinking City – a Green City? Opportunities and Constraints for Green Space Development

STEFANIE ROESSLER, PhD  
Research Fellow  
Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER)

As an effect of the political change in 1989 the new federal states of Germany have undergone dramatic socio-demographic and economic change, which has led to shrinking cities, with the typical phenomena of abandoned uses, vacancies, decline and deconstruction of buildings and infrastructure and the increase in vacant lots. A special type of the global phenomenon of shrinking cities revealed in Eastern Germany, partly influenced also by processes of post-industrialisation and liberalisation. This paper focuses on the spatial and physical impacts of strategies to deal with the challenges of shrinkage in urban contexts from the point of view of green space development.

Having the reasons and mechanisms of shrinkage in mind, this paper starts with the approach of urban restructuring and its impacts to and requirements for green space development. The strategy of urban restructuring in terms of a particular approach, also supported by governmental programmes and funding, aims both at reducing surplus housing and improving affected quarters. It concerns green space issues in different ways: On the one hand, the demolition of surplus buildings of housing and commerce means an increase in vacant spaces, which offers new opportunities for green space development. On the other, green space planning is required in order to develop solutions for these lots while, simultaneously, contributing to a sustainable urban development. So, green space development means both a strategy and a need to cope with the spatial transformation of cities as a consequence of socio-demographic change.

The question is raised, if this framework leads to a changing perception, awareness and at least relevance in urban development compared to the usual approaches of perceiving green spaces as residual urban spaces. The paper discusses the issue of urban green spaces in relation to (1) the debate on urban form, (2) the role in overall planning strategies, (3) the design and use, and (4) the opportunities and constraints regarding the applicability and sustainability of green space development in the light of spatial shrinking processes and urban restructuring.

Based on theoretical notes to urban models in the context of shrinkage and a case study in cities of Eastern Germany, the following aspects will be critically discussed:

- the role of green spaces within urban structural models and urban concepts,
- green space development between formulating green space strategies and being a strategic approach of urban restructuring, and
- new types of green spaces in shrinking cities.

## Urban Shrapnel: Spatial Distribution of Non-Productive Space in Expanding Cities

GALEN D. NEWMAN  
Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning  
Texas A&M University

The second law of thermodynamics presupposes that nature unavoidably produces waste as it grows. This statement is also true in regards to urban growth. The successional cycle of activation and obsolescence of space in American Cities is a salient characteristic of urban growth. This cycle has left in its wake an abundance of vacant and derelict land, contaminated areas, and abandoned building stock – a collection of non-productive space. These spaces arise as by-products of urban expansion, and can take the form of vacant housing, inactive landfills, decommissioned rail yards, obsolete industrial or manufacturing plants, dismantled military installations, abandoned riverside harbors, deserted factories, unused parking lots, disheveled open space, unkempt transmission corridors, non-viable agricultural lands, and/or derelict historic structures. Expanding cities have demonstrated the capacity to accumulate non-productive space more rapidly than fixed cities. While analyses on the spatial impact of annexation and population migration in expanding cities is well documented by sprawl theorists, the impact of these processes specifically on vacant land has not been significantly assessed. Using Fort Worth, TX as a case study site, this research explores the spatial characteristics of non-productive space. The research hypothesizes a correlation between civic expansion and urban core fragmentation due to vacant land configurations. Combinational GIS data for the site obtained from the City of Fort Worth, TNRS, US Census, and the USDA was broken the city down into 5 mile buffer increments using vacant land quantities, vacant land parcel sizes, and abandoned structure distribution as explanatory variables to determine spatial characteristics. Time series analyses on population migration, annexation quantities, and the non-productive space totals from 1990-2010 were also conducted to evaluate the impact of civic expansion on the spatial distribution of non-productive space. Findings indicate that although non-productive space quantities decreased overall, urban core amounts increased while peripheral amounts decreased. Corollary, parcel size in the urban core areas decreased as non-productive space totals increased. This has resulted in a fragmented urban core which is dotted with disconnected, small, irregularly spaced parcels of non-productive space, or urban shrapnel. The result is a collection of spaces within the urban environment which is an internal frontier which, due to its spatial characteristics, is becoming increasingly difficult to develop.

## Vacancy as a Laboratory: Toward an Urban Land Ethic

KEES LOKMAN  
Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture  
Washington University in St. Louis

Within the context of shrinking cities and expanding landscapes, this essay primarily focuses on the promise of restoration ecology as a framework to help change the value of vacant lots not just ecologically, but also culturally and economically. Originally introduced by William R. Jordan (1987)<sup>1</sup>, restoration ecology not only acknowledges society's dependence on nature, but also argues that nature benefits from deliberate human actions to maintain biodiversity. Rather than traditional planning methods that strive for fixed end goals, restoration ecology promotes dynamic approaches based on responsive frameworks, strategic interventions and incremental change. According to Jordan, "restoration gives humans a role in 'nature's' work and creates artificial natural systems that not only make nonsense of any radical distinction between humans and nature, but also provide a way of negotiating the differences between them."<sup>2</sup> This idea of reconsidering and reimagining our relationship with diverse ecologies becomes increasingly important in a world that continues to become more urbanized, and where many people have lost daily connections to the landscape.

The paper discusses a number of small-scale projects that illustrate how flexible, scalable, and low-cost interventions have the opportunity address social, economic and environmental needs on larger scales. These designed experiments propose hybridized natural-cultural ecologies that explore alternative ways of reintegrating vacant areas in deindustrializing cities. Applying the framework of 'leaning-by-doing', these projects become experimental platforms, or laboratories, for the coproduction of knowledge through various means, techniques and actors. Moreover, these practices promote the notion of an urban land ethic: an increasing public awareness for and participation in developing sustainable exchanges between urban populations and flows of natural goods and services.

<sup>1</sup> W.R., Jordan, M.E. Gilpin, and J.D. Aber. "Restoration ecology: Ecological restoration as a technique for basic research," in *Restoration ecology: A synthetic approach to ecological research*. Edited by W.R. Jordan, M.E. Gilpin, and J.D. Aber (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press., 1987): pp. 3–21.

<sup>2</sup> William R. Jordan. "Foreword," in *The Tallgrass Restoration: Handbook For Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands*. Edited by Stephen Packard and Cornelia F. Mutels (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1997): pp. xiii-xviii.

## Mind the Gap: Opportunities for Stormwater Management and Neighbourhood Stabilization in Urban Communities with Gap-Tooth Vacancy

SANDRA L. ALBRO  
Director of Research  
Cleveland Botanical Garden

SEAN BURKHOLDER  
Assistant Professor of Landscape and Urban Design  
School of Architecture and Planning  
University at Buffalo | SUNY

Urban vacancy is not a ubiquitous term or condition. The scale, intensity, distribution and on-site characteristics of vacant parcels vary at regional, city, neighborhood, and block-level scales. In US Great Lakes cities, patterns of urban vacancy are relicts of piecemeal abandonment and demolition of residential and commercial structures following decades of depopulation. As a result, urban cores in the Great Lakes region are heterogeneous in the size and distribution of their vacant land. A good deal of attention has been placed on the reclamation of large brownfield sites or the re-assimilation of parcels into larger, more easily developed areas. However, a majority of neighborhoods in the region are characterized by small, disconnected vacant parcels, which present challenges to neighborhoods that are interested in slowing population loss by finding productive uses for vacant land.

Coinciding with interest in neighborhood stabilization, many cities in the Great Lakes region are planning for long term investments toward improved stormwater management. Such management is necessary to mitigate regulatory noncompliance, flooding risk or to accommodate large stormwater events that are expected to increase with climate change. Urban vacant land presents a unique opportunity in these cities for on-site runoff reduction through a localized neighborhood network of interventions, leveraging the distributed nature of parcels.

In the Great Lakes region, financial support for neighborhood stabilization and/or stormwater management often comes from regional or federal funding sources. Typically, appropriate project placement within a large area of interest—such as a watershed or city—is a necessary first step toward project planning and implementation. We describe a detailed process for site selection that simultaneously considers social and eco-/hydrologic factors that ultimately influence the effects of urban greening projects on community and stormwater management. Our analysis integrates a variety of federal, regional, and local datasets and identifies necessary areas for future work to identify the interactions among, and relative importance of, community and ecological factors. This process also highlights areas for future development of datasets or rapid assessment protocols that can reduce the time and resources needed for an integrative approach to site selection.

## A Green Infrastructure Framework for Shrinking Cities: Creating Functional Landscapes from Underutilised Lands

WILLIAM L. ALLEN, III  
Director, Strategic Conservation Planning  
The Conservation Fund

In just over a decade, green infrastructure planning has evolved from a novel buzzword into a recognized planning practice (Allen, 2012). The US now has an array of organizations and public agencies involved in implementing green infrastructure, and the approach has inspired extensive research in the UK and Western Europe (Mell, 2008). Current best practices in green infrastructure planning attempt to link and coordinate planning and implementation across three spatial scales – site, regional, and landscape (McDonald et al., 2005) along the urban/rural continuum, with specific implementation strategies at each scale. While green infrastructure planning has normally been associated with 'growing' communities and often begins at the landscape scale (Benedict and McMahon, 2006), the green infrastructure planning approach also can be and has been applied to the Shrinking Cities phenomenon. Nonetheless, more applied research is needed to generate sufficient scale to transform the landscape into an interconnected, functional network of urban ecological systems that provide multiple benefits for people and nature. This paper attempts to synthesize best practices to date with a multi-scale green infrastructure approach to establish an operational framework that results in functional landscapes within the patchwork of abandoned, vacant, or underutilised properties. The framework can be broken into the following components:

- Analyze the landscape and regional context for site scale implementation
- Engage the community with long-term vision and short-term opportunities
- Identify the typology of potential green infrastructure activities
- Craft implementation project selection criteria
- Optimize the project investment portfolio

The hope is that this approach can be consistently applied to ongoing planning efforts by cities and organizations in the US and around the world. Implementation of the framework will require numerous "living laboratories" that provide strategic opportunities to effectively apply the framework. After additional peer review and further evolution of The Conservation Fund's ongoing green infrastructure projects, we hope to test this framework for site scale green infrastructure implementation over the next couple of years in ongoing projects involving underutilised lands in Los Angeles, California; Detroit, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Atlanta, Georgia; and Portland, Oregon.

## A Cleveland Model? Experiments in Alternative Urbanism in the Rustbelt

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Department of Architecture and Urban Studies  
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The city of Cleveland has been experiencing conditions of urban shrinkage for over six decades following a typical multi-causal and multi-dimensional pattern of decline. Spreading abandonment, crisis of the real-estate market, poverty concentration, racial segregation, collapse of neighbourhood habitats, decline in government capacity: this is the shared phenomenology of processes of urban and metropolitan shrinkage that have been produced by a complex nexus of causes to be located in the economy and in the spatial organization of society, with an increasingly acknowledged role of the government both at federal and local level. More recently, the over-exposition of the city to the effects of the explosion of the real-estate and financial market bubble has led to a new wave of decline, abandonment and social disorganization.

Based on work on the field realized in 2013, the paper argues that the case of the city of Cleveland offers three main examples of alternative recent urban development practices that are deeply rooted in the context of persistent urban shrinkage: 1) the establishment of a county land-bank aimed at assembling unused land in order to repurpose it also in the direction of “alternative land uses” such as urban agriculture and ecological restoration; 2) the design of a program – the “Reimagining a more sustainable Cleveland” initiative - aimed at implementing innovative greening strategies through the activation of local residents and communities; 3) the consistent investment of local philanthropic institutions in new economic development efforts aimed at establishing local cooperatives operating on a local market also but not exclusively focusing on “green economy” products and services.

Following the description and discussion of these practices, the paper argues that the case of Cleveland represents a consistent shift from previous neo-liberal urban development models that have been widely implemented across the urban Rustbelt of the United States. The main elements of this new approach are: 1) a new treatment of the physical footprint of the city that is consistently coherent with the “smart-shrinkage” and “rightsizing” literatures; 2) the acceptance of the return of part of the land to its use-value and away from commodification circuits; 3) the reconsideration of the priority of real-estate development on behalf of the “Community development industry” through the formulation on a more diverse set of policies and programs; 4) the investment of important city actors in alternative economic development models aimed at re-localizing the economy; 5) the increasing relevance of targets of social and environmental sustainability in the expansion of alternative food production and distribution systems.

In the final remarks, the paper argues that these main drivers of change are closely related to the context of persistent urban shrinkage and discusses possible limitations to its own thesis.

## No Vacancy? Shrinking Cities and the Temporary Use Model

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Assistant Professor  
Department of Planning and Design  
University of Colorado Denver

Vacant land is a common feature of shrinking cities. These “urban voids” fit many categories from brownfields to grayfields to leftover/marginal spaces, and are caused by a variety of economic, social, political and environmental forces, from the rapid restructuring or decline of local, regional and global economies (in particular deindustrialization) to environmental disasters to sudden or incremental demographic shifts.

In this paper, we track the causes of vacant land in order to show that such features are inevitable byproducts of typical urban development processes. Nowhere are these processes more visible than in shrinking cities, especially as most are home to very acute economic decline – most often related to deindustrialization – and the attendant mismatch of built infrastructure and the local population that might use such infrastructure.

Regardless of the condition and context of vacant land, most official programs to fix/treat vacant land advocate complex, formal solutions that call for or depend on implementation over several multi-year phases. These approaches privilege a long-term temporal scale on which cities appear to operate, creating an implicit norm of longevity and permanence that runs counter to the realities of urban development that operate in considerably shorter timeframes.

This paper challenges this norm and argues that since all (re)development is “temporary” – some uses just last longer than others – shorter-term solutions for vacant land are a worthwhile exploration. The authors examine critically several projects that attempt to realize vacant land as an important resource rather than a problem to be solved. These projects employ a variety of responses that are temporary, incremental, flexible and experimental, and are based in an understanding of both the varied temporal and spatial scales of urban development processes. Our proposed “temporary use model” emphasizes the ability of urban vacant land to provide numerous short- to mid-term benefits, uses, infrastructural functions and ecosystem services that are frequently absent, particularly in underserved neighbourhoods. As such, this model goes some way in addressing issues of uneven development, social and environmental justice and urban sustainability, potentially recentering urban vacant land as a critical element of the processes that create and foster urbanity and urban life.



## SHRINKING CITIES | EXPANDING LANDSCAPES

Cities are changing, and with them, ways of dwelling, including the way we understand and operate within an urban context. We move around the city, but we don't always follow the maps and the marked paths. Sometimes, we prefer to draw alternate maps, to build alternate paths adapting the streets to our desires, rather than the opposite. And when, for some reason, streets become empty, a new city arises. We rebuild again through our actions and our steps, creating new possibilities on a map that was not useful anymore.

This exhibition showcases 8 internationally-exhibiting artists from throughout Europe with work that focusses on depopulated urban landscapes.

### ARTISTS

Robert Davies (UK)  
Daniel Lema (Spain)  
Carme Nogueira (Spain)  
Manuel Eiris (Spain)  
Lara Almarcegui (Spain)  
Filipe Condado (Portugal)  
Santiago Cirugeda (Spain)  
Stina Wirfelt (Sweden)

Ana González Chouciño, Curator  
Antonio Cervera, Curator  
Stella Mygdali, Coordinator

From the series *Last Houses*  
Filipe Condado

#### Lara Almarcegui (Spain)

Lives and works in Rotterdam. The work of Spanish artist Lara Almarcegui often explores neglected or overlooked sites, carefully cataloguing and highlighting each location's tendency towards entropy. Her projects have ranged from a guide to the wastelands of Amsterdam, to the display – in their raw form – of the materials used to construct the galleries in which she exhibits. Currently, she is representing Spain in the Venice Biennale 2013. Recent group exhibitions include Manifesta IX, Gent and TRACK, Gent (2012), Radical Nature, Barbican Art Centre London, (2009), Athens biennale (2009), Taipei and Gwangju Biennale in 2008, Sharjah Biennale (2007), The 27th São Paulo Biennial, San Paulo (2006), the 2nd Seville Biennial, Seville (2006), (Public Act) Lunds Konsthall, Lund (2005) and Liverpool Biennale (2004). Solo exhibitions include CREDAC, Ivry sur Seine, Musac, León (2013); CA2M, Madrid (2012), Künstlerhaus, Bremen (2012) Secession, Vienna and Ludlow 38, New York (2010), the Malaga Centre of Contemporary Art, Malaga (2007), the FRAC Bourgogne, Dijon (2004) and INDEX, Stockholm (2003). She is represented by Gallery Parra y Romero in Madrid and Gallery Ellen de Bruijne Projects in Amsterdam.

#### Santiago Cirugeda (Spain)

Santiago Cirugeda is an architect and artist. Since 1996, he has exerted critical practices, demanding that the rules governing city planning undergo an urgent revision. In 2004, he founded the architecture studio Recetas Urbanas, continuing the development of subversive projects in different areas of the urban reality that would help to cope with the complicated social life of it. From systematic occupations of the public spaces made with containers until the construction of prosthesis for facades, backyards, roofs and empty lots. All of these done, through negotiation processes between the legality and illegality, as a way to remember the enormous control we are subjected.

[www.recetasurbanas.net](http://www.recetasurbanas.net)

#### Daniel Lema (Spain)

Daniel Lema is a Spanish-born photographer currently studying an MA in Visual Anthropology at The University of Manchester. He arrived to its well renowned Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology after being graduated with distinction in a BA Photography at Edinburgh College in June 2013. He has been previously awarded with an MA in Law and Economics (2010) at the University of Vigo, Spain. During these former studies, his awake and inquisitive spirit drove him to undertake two scholarships in foreign universities: the first one, at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and the second one, at Universidade Federal da Bahia, in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. The experiences lived abroad in those countries at a young age were a turning point in his life and encouraged him to further his deep interest in human and cultural studies.

[www.lemaphotography.com](http://www.lemaphotography.com)

#### Filipe Condado (Portugal)

Filipe Condado was born in Lisbon in 1973. He studied Photography in AR.CO in 1991/3 and different courses in relation with this discipline. He participated in solo exhibitions (Cultural Center of Cascais, São Mamede Gallery...) and in collective exhibitions through Portugal (Padrão dos Descobrimentos, Contemporary Art Fair...). His work is present in different publications and art collections.

[www.filipecondado.com](http://www.filipecondado.com)

#### Robert Davies (UK)

"My work is focused on the landscape around us / its architecture, structures both permanent and temporary. I am interested in how landscapes, especially in towns and cities, reflect a sense of constantly changing spaces". Davies pursued a foundation year at Newport College of Art, studying under Magnum photographer David Hurn in the documentary photography department. He received a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University, a PG CERT in Art Education from De Montfort University Leicester, and a Masters in Design in Photography from Glasgow School of Art.

[www.robertdaviesphotographer.co.uk](http://www.robertdaviesphotographer.co.uk)

#### Manuel Eiris (Spain)

Manuel Eiris has always been interested in documenting the wall layers that were inhabited, that were part of life in the house. He wants to show, as well as the different layers of paper or paint, the wall that supports them: remove all layers and also photograph the plaster, in order to reconstruct the story of the house coming back in time. He was born in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in 1977. He studied the Bachelor in Fine Arts (Universidad de Vigo), he participated in an Individual Project at Centro de Arte e Comunicação Visual Ar.Co. (Lisboa) and he studied as well a Masters in Fine Arts at AKV St. Joost's (Hertogenbosch, Nederland)

[manueleiris.com](http://manueleiris.com)

#### Carme Nogueira (Spain)

During her career as an artist, Carme Nogueira has worked in the field of corporal criticism of the concept of identity or domestic intimacy in relation to her gender position. In her most recent work she examines the daily resistance to the imposed uses of the city, through specific spatial devices. Some of her last projects are Citoyenneté, (Paris/ Montehermoso, Vitoria 2012) Castillete, retablo minero, Laboratorio 987, MUSAC, León, Spain (2012); Archivación, an exhibition device for Utrópicos, Centroamérica y Caribe (XXXI Bienal de Pontevedra, 2010; Porteños Intervenciones-Valparaíso (Chile 2010); Rotterdamweg, (Rotterdam, 2009); Exhibition Device Sala Rekalde (Bilbao, 2008); Prospera, (Instituto Cervantes, Beijing / MARCO Vigo 2007-2008), Objetos de Interpretación Espacial (Idensitat, Barcelona, 2007) and Nos Caminos, CGAC, Santiago de Compostela, among others. She took her bachelor's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Salamanca and her postgraduate degree at the University of Vigo. Recently she has done residencies in Het Wilde Weten (Rotterdam 2009) and SecondRoom (Brussels, 2009, together with Dieuwertje Komen) and PROGRAM (Berlin 2010 with the support of a Marcelino Botín Visual Arts Grant).

[www.cntxt.org](http://www.cntxt.org)

#### Stina Wirfelt (Sweden)

Stina Wirfelt is an artist based in Glasgow. Her work identifies and constructs points where different stories meet and merge. These concurrent narratives can be coincidental or scripted, or both. An underlying theme is the mind's constant search for "meaning" and how knowledge is made and constructed. Since graduating with an MFA from Malmö Art Academy in 2007 she has participated in LUX Associate Artist Program and been artist in residence at Headlands in California. During 2013 she has shown work at Embassy Gallery and at Winnipeg Festival of Film and Video Art. She will participate in LUX festival of moving image at Tramway in September and teaches regularly at the Intermedia Program at Edinburgh College of Art.



## THE SALTCITIES: DRAWING THE CITY OF UNSURE GROUND

This exhibition showcases the work of postgraduate students in the MArch programme in ESALA. This exhibition is an Associated Project of the 2013 Lisbon Architecture Triennale.

The Saltcity Master of Architecture studio, led by architectural academic, Suzanne Ewing, works with the southwestern edges of Europe as an empirical anchor for exploration of contemporary questions of material, spatial, environmental and metropolitan fragilities and resiliences. 'Cadiz: Field and Work (2006-2008)' and 'Marseille: Irrigations' (2009-2011) uncovered distinctive topographical and morphological urban and sea/port conditions which were explored through city speculations: collective consolidations and detailed inquiries tested through architectural design propositions. The current studio, 'Lisbon-Tagus: City of Unsure Ground' (2012-2014), positions the ground of the city as geological, aqueous and atmospheric.

### SALTCITY MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE STUDIO 2012-2014 LISBON-TAGUS: COMPOSITE GROUND

Constructing the ground of the Lisbon-Tagus metropolitan area as sites for studio speculations began with the construction of a series of City: Field maps. When these are overlaid, the layers reveal consolidations of morphologies as well as surprising adjacencies, juxtapositions, slippages, densities, and scarcities.

The safe harbour and strategic rocky vantage points of the Tejo river estuary in this area are uncovered in the walled areas and protected ports of the Phoenician city, Roman city, Moorish city. The geological ground shows the solidity of the rocky ridges and the softer territories of the estuary rivulets. Rail networks brace and reinforce the estuary edge; road constellations remain land bound until the two significant bridges of the twentieth century (1964 and Vasco de Gama) include the southern side of the estuary as part of the Metropolitan Area. The shadows of flight paths mark the prevailing wind directions.

This composite map drawing is not an aerial view of the city, a city portrait, or an exhaustive survey. The tissue-like traces and lines of boat crossings and built city streets are held in spatial and environmental relation to material ground, sea flows, and atmospheric occupation. Attention is drawn to distinctive and complex city thresholds - of sea, land and air - which raise questions of the limits, reach and dependencies of the contemporary city.

Suzanne Ewing, Curator | Senior Lecturer, ESALA, University of Edinburgh

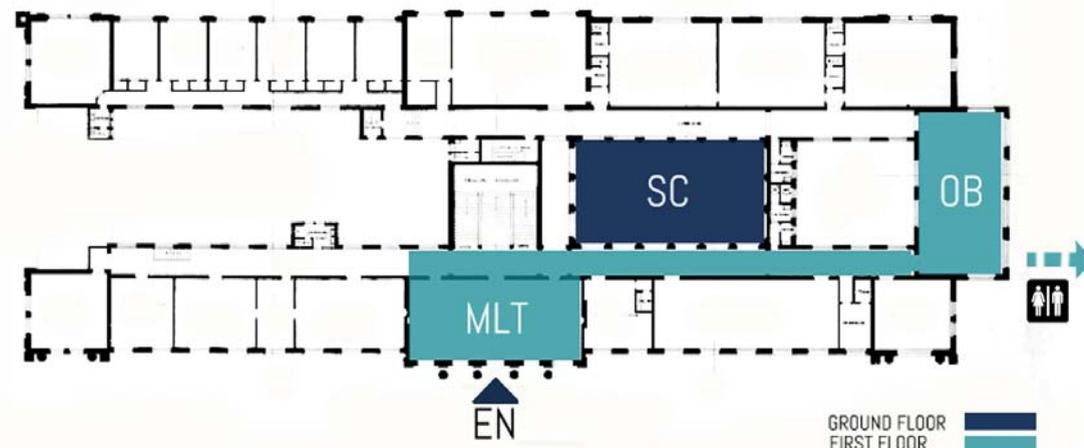
### PARTICIPANTS:

Fiona Baxter, Liam Bonnar, Duncan Chalmers, Rickie Cheung, David Clark, Sebb Hathaway, Jamie Henry, Sophia Humphries, James Hunt, Didar Hussein, Alex Kuklinski, Ross McArthur, Murdo McDermid, Chris Nicholson, Pavlina Stergiadou, Hannah Thomas, Heidi Wakefield, Douglas Walker, Xixi Xu, Charles Young.

*Lisbon-Tagus 2013*  
[www.cityspeculations.com](http://www.cityspeculations.com)

## MAPS & VENUES GUIDE

- ECA** Edinburgh College of Art, The University of Edinburgh, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9DF
- MLT** Main Lecture Theatre, Main Building, Edinburgh College of Art
- OB** Old Boardroom, Main Building, Edinburgh College of Art
- SC** Sculpture Court, Main Building, Edinburgh College of Art
- GD** Ghillie Dhu, 2 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2AD



## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Mark Eischeid & Francisca Lima | Co-Chairs
- Dimitra Ntzani & Graham Shawcross | Space Management and IT
- Reyhaneh Mozaffar, Shahab Zeini Aslani & Lore Said | Communications Committee
- Antonio Cervera, Ana Chouciño & Stella Mygdali | Exhibition Committee
- Mei-Lin Su & Azlina Aziz | Registration Committee
- Edwar Calderón & Lore Said | Catering Committee
- Rocio von Jungenfeld | Media Committee

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- Suzanne Ewing | ESALA, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Kenny Fraser | ESALA, University of Edinburgh, UK
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- Vera Vicenzotti | School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University, UK
- Catharine Ward Thompson | ESALA, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Dorian Wiszniewski | ESALA, University of Edinburgh, UK



cover photo from the series *Last Houses* by Filipe Condado

SHRINKING CITIES  
EXPANDING  
LANDSCAPES



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh College of Art



ESALA

Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture

  
Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa  
Lisbon Architecture Triennale

<http://expandinglandscapes.wordpress.com>