



**SCARP**  
School of Community  
And Regional Planning

## NEWSLETTER - FALL 2009

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## An interdisciplinary studio - Oyster Bay Studio LARC 510

At the end of August, 2009 planning students Jo-anna Clark, Adam Hyslop, Paris Marshall Smith and Heather Fehr joined 15 other students from Architecture and Landscape Architecture to work with landscape architects Will Marsh and Paul de Greef and learn about site-adaptive design. An incredible opportunity to engage intimately with other disciplines and as Heather Fehr explains, come to understand that as a planner, adaptive design is much more than what happens in the field.



On the beach at the mouth of Oyster River - Day 3

### Course objectives:

- First, develop a strong need-to-know attitude about the systems and processes that shape edge environments and should be central to design there;
- Second, develop the basic knowledge and skills to read dynamic landscapes and formulate defensible rationale for design decisions in these places;
- Third, are able to formulate a site-adaptive approach to an elementary design problem for four field sites;
- Fourth, develop a basic appreciation for the virtues of interdisciplinary team efforts in site planning and design; and
- Fifth, cultivate a passion for the land and celebrate the design experience.

### Heather Fehr:

Well what can I say, the Oyster Bay Studio (LARC 510) this summer was more than just an experiment in Landscape Architecture, instead it was an abrupt understanding of where a planner “fits” in the larger picture. Coming into the class with no background in design (I am focussing on disaster management planning), I was expecting to overcome a fear of drawing as well as encounter a few awkward moments where I felt completely naive about the work of landscape architects and architects. Well that awkwardness came and went on the first day. In the days that followed I learnt more about what a planner does than I have learnt in any class before. The first half of the course is individual work and the second half of the 9 days is done in inter-disciplinary groups. During group work I found myself facilitating, bringing ideas together, as well as questioning what our outcomes would be by consistently redefining the process in which we were taking. The question “What about the social aspect?” which I repeated over and over, sounded like a broken record coming from my mouth. This was the first class during my graduate degree that was truly interdisciplinary, and I found it useful as instead of being told what a planner does, I was forced to define my role and fit it into the context of a project and the surrounding and available knowledge of my group. In addition to learning about what my role was, I also got to learn through the group process how architects and landscape architects work, seeing what they bring to the creative table. Plus, there was great swimming, karaoke and drinks to really get to know what the other disciplines are like.



Walking through Paradiase Meadows - Day 1

## Fourth Ph.D. Jamboree held at SCARP

John Friedmann

This week-long gathering of close to 40 doctoral students from all over the world was the fourth such event held over the past 8 years. This year's topic was "New Frontiers in Planning and Research" and brought two distinguished visiting scholars to



Participants take a tour of the city

SCARP: Margaret Crawford from Harvard's Graduate School of Design who spoke on everyday urbanism and Mike Douglass from the University of Hawaii at Manoa who lectured on "Towards livable

cities in Pacific Asia". Also involved were Leonie Sandercock and John Friedmann, the organizers of the event, as well as other SCARP faculty, including Maged Senbel, Margo Fryer, Michael Leaf, Tom Hutton, Bill Rees, Nathan Edelson, and Michael Gordon. Aftab Erlan and James White were our local student hosts.

Below three typical comments from participants:

- During her presentation last Monday, Margaret Crawford made a comment about ideas. She pointed out that ideas have an incredible life on itself and that one never knows what becomes out of them down the road. This somewhat sums up



Participants down at the beach

the impact jamboree has had on me: it engendered many ideas who are simultaneously looking for possible connections to my research, my intellectual development and my outlook on life. Exploring these ideas is what lies ahead of me, and I am looking forward to it. Thank you. (Thorben Wieditz, York University)

- What I liked the most of the workshop is your attitude towards research. I learned that we all should enjoy doing a PhD, really believe that we are doing important and meaningful things, and be kind with the others because we are working with people, and not solely writing in a library or PhD room. That is what I learn from you and all my colleagues. I feel much more connected with my research now and filled with energy to keep on writing and finish next year. (Cristina Inclan, London School of Economics)

- I benefited a lot from both the lectures and our joint reflections on doing research. Against the background of an academic environment where quantitative output and orthodox research are gaining importance, it was great to listen to top urban scholars demonstrating that there is still room for creative and relevant approaches. (Florian Wukowitsch, Technical University of Berlin)

All in all, it was a rewarding experience for all of us. The next Jamboree is scheduled for June 2011.

## An Internship Far From the Mainstream

Waleed Giratalla

On July 2, 2009, I hopped on my pedal bike to begin what was to become a very profound journey.

My destination?

O.U.R. Ecovillage ([www.ourecovillage.org](http://www.ourecovillage.org)) on Vancouver Island where I was embarking on a month-long internship. I had no idea what the month had in store. But I was definitely ready to find out! I had many objectives in interning at the ecovillage.

My two main objectives were:

1. To understand the planning related issues that alternative communities face in the context of BC's regulatory framework; and
2. To have an introductory experiential understanding of living and working in an intentional community.

I was surprised to find out that O.U.R. Ecovillage has overcome countless planning and regulatory hurdles in their short history. One such hurdle relates to zoning of their 25-acre parcel of land. The ecovillage worked tirelessly with staff of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) to establish Canada's first zoning bylaw for an ecovillage. The new R-4 zone, "Rural Community Residential", permits an extensive list of uses such as agriculture, retail, education, residential, cooking and camping facilities (talk about mixed use!). And not only are these uses permitted, they are all currently happening simultaneously. The ecovillage features a beautiful, well-executed mix of gardens, pasture, natural buildings, offices, learning facilities, studio space, preserved habitat, an outdoor kitchen and more.

But living and working in community was far more profound than the regulatory history of the site. The experience transformed my conception of 'community'. This is especially significant considering my chosen career path as a community plan



Cob and straw bale construction on site

ner and designer. For the longest time, I thought of community as simply a geographical region that was shared by a set of strangers and, at times, a few friends. But now, community means so much more to me. It is a space where we coexist on multiple levels. It is a space where we not only live together, but work and play together too. It is a space where we help to raise each others' children, where we solve problems and conflicts together. It is a space where we love our neighbours and respect the earth. All these attributes I saw while at the ecovillage. I witnessed the manifestation of a strong, cohesive community, a space defined by much more than its geographical boundaries.

My passion to create community is stronger than ever. I owe this in great part to a small group of strangers who became my family in just one month. That's the beauty and power of community. Please contact Waleed ([wgiratal@hotmail.com](mailto:wgiratal@hotmail.com)) with any questions or feedback. Thank you.



## SCARP Affordable Housing Symposium

Ren Thomas

No matter what your profession, you've probably been to your share of conferences. From professional to academic, trade shows to think tanks, conferences are still the most popular way to share your research and ideas with a larger audience. In academia, paper presentations and face-to-face networking with other academics are still the norm even in our increasingly wired society. Similarly, practicing planners share their policies, plans and tools with each other at the Canadian Institute of Planners/American Planning Association conferences, and their provincial and state equivalents. I confess that while I gain a lot from these events, and often meet other interesting researchers in the field, I find the whole thing a bit draining. Several days of listening to presentations and networking is tiring. The other thing is that there seems to be a divide in the types of people these conferences attract: practicing planners go to one conference and academics to another. It's rare that you have that blend of practicing planners, academic researchers, and those working in municipal, regional and federal policy development.



Key-note Speaker Michael Gordon

Last March, students at SCARP organized such an event on sustainability (*Sustaina-what to Sustaina - how Symposium 2009*). SCARP repeated the success of this event with another one-day symposium on affordable housing funded by the

BC provincial government and several key sponsors like VanCity and the Planning Institute of BC. Papers were presented by both Masters and PhD planning students, municipal planners, housing developers, architects, and more. It was a rare confluence of research, policy development and practical planning tools that have impacted the construction of affordable housing in Canada. Some of the sessions I attended included Haley Mousseau (BC Non-Profit Housing Association) on the long-term survival of non-profit housing units in the province; Andy Yan (Bing Thom Architects) on the impact of empty condos on Vancouver, and Vanessa Kay (internship for the City of Vancouver) research on the long-term costs associated with amenity spaces in Vancouver condos.



Dr. Gurstein presents her and Nancy Hofer's research findings

The breadth of experience in the room was palpable, and it was easy to strike up conversations over breakfast, lunch, and the cocktail hour with (in my case) the director of a shelter, a housing provider in a suburban municipality, a planning consultant working extensively on housing development, an academic researcher looking at sustainable neighbourhoods, a PhD candidate in geography at UBC, and a Masters student who had traveled from northeastern US to attend the symposium. Best of all, the one-day format kept things moving and packed a lot of information into a short amount of time. The only problem I overheard participants discussing was that there were concurrent sessions, so it was impossible to hear all the presentations.

It's easy for us to become entrenched and isolated

in our little silos, whether it's a municipal department of planning or an academic faculty. Events like this provide a rare opportunity to share our work with a wider audience and to learn from a variety of different viewpoints. The short length of the symposium effectively limited participation to those within a short distance of the host city, forcing people to develop better ties in their own locality. While there is a place for big conferences, and connecting with people over continents who share our interests, it's a sad fact that few of us have the time to create or maintain local research/practice networks outside the context of our immediate projects.

Next week I'll be attending another rather unconventional conference, or rather "un-conference" called TransitCamp, which uses multimedia techniques to foster dialogue between participants. A similar event was held in Toronto in April 2008. I'm skeptical, but I'll let you know how it turns out.

*This article originally appeared on [renthomas.ca/blog](http://renthomas.ca/blog) - where you can go to read the update on TransportCamp.*

## Fall & Winter 2009 - Lunch-time Lecture Series

September 23	Michael Anhorn
October 7	Ugo Lachapelle
October 21	Ray Spaxman
November 4	Amsterdam 2009
November 18	Geoff Atkins
December 2	Michael Shiffer
January 13	Peter Ladner
January 27	Maeve Lindon
February 10	David Diamond
March 3	John Friedmann
March 17	Janine DeLaSalle

## Decoding Two Cities: New York City and Vancouver A Summer Internship

Stacy Passmore

I had been out of school almost five years before beginning graduate school for a master's degree in urban planning at SCARP in 2008. Earlier stints with an architecture firm, as well as work with environmental organizations led me to pursue studies in urban design. As a native Texan who has had the opportunity to study and work overseas, I've always been interested in how cities integrate environmental concerns with place-making. Especially a city like New York.

This curiosity drew me to the city this summer, into an internship with the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) in the Office of the Chief Urban Designer. As a student of planning and urban design, it was particularly important to me to develop a deeper understanding and hands-on exposure to the practice of urban designers in a municipal setting. The division of Urban Design, headed by the Chief Urban Designer Alexandros Washburn AIA, was created in 2007 as a way to better manage urban design quality in a quickly changing city. The office provides expertise to the Director and Chair, Amanda Burden AICP, and collaborates with other divisions on large scale planning and development initiatives, including master plans and design guidelines for major sites and development projects. It also provides a citywide perspective on key urban design and public space issues.

I wanted to see how a municipal urban design department operated, experience the general working environment, learn about the urban designers, and really get a grasp on the nature of the work performed. I wanted to get involved as much as possible. One memorable DCP experience was participating in a meeting about Staten Island rezoning and the revitalization of an industrial neighborhood in conjunction with the Fresh Kills Park development. I had the opportunity to work on best practices and precedents for current projects in-

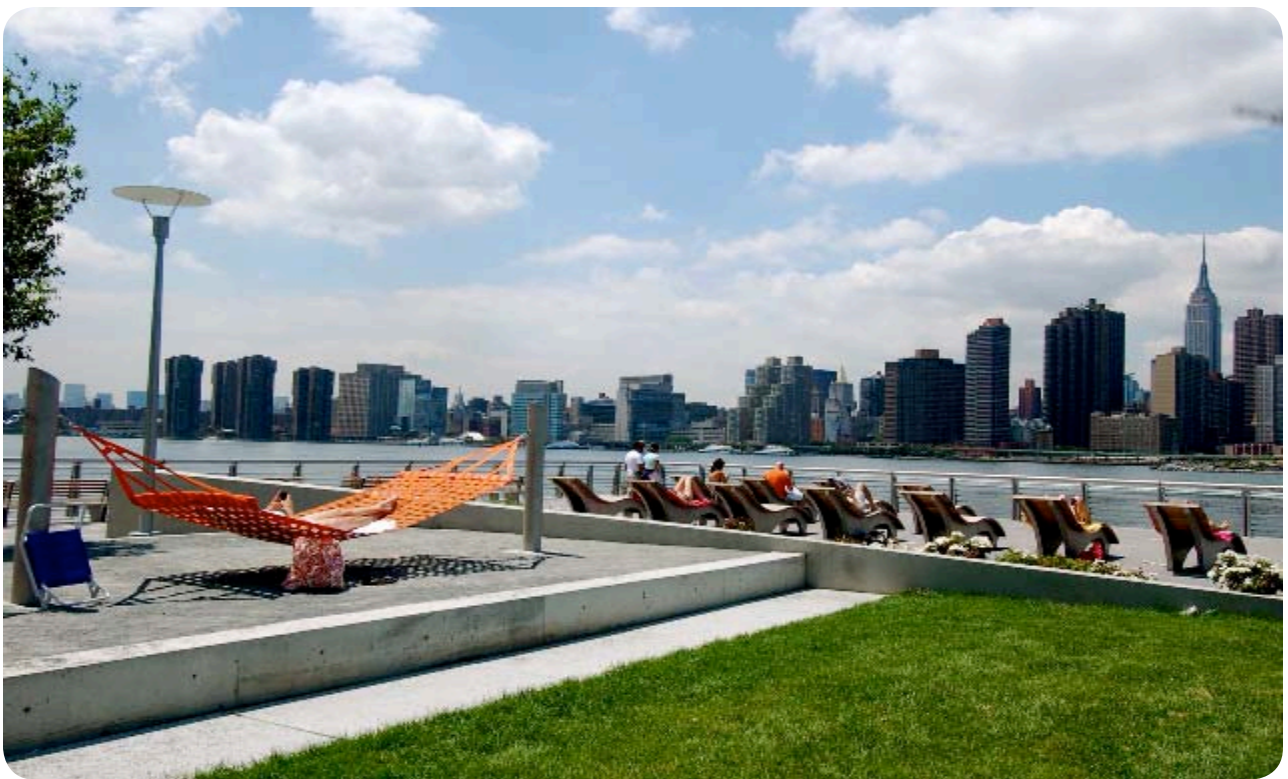
cluding the Hunters Point in Queens, the Hudson Yards in Manhattan, and Bronx Concourse. I also collaborated with other interns on research topics including, climate change, transformative landscapes, and tower top regulations. Sitting in on public hearings and review sessions, and partaking in site visits have confirmed for me why I am so drawn to urban planning. The friendly atmosphere and studio-like environment created a platform for mutual learning between interns, planners and designers.

In addition to the work at the office, the division coordinated a number of field trips, including a tour of the new Cooper Union building by Morphosis Architects, and a morning at the office of Marpillero Pollack Architects who designed the new Queens Plaza. I also attended planner led tours of each borough, and a BBQ for all the city interns hosted

by Mayor Bloomberg.

I was surprised to learn that the DCP was also very interested in Vancouver's built form and quality of life achievements. Working with the urban designers, I researched both Vancouver and New York's zoning law, developing points of comparison and drawing out lessons for each city. I took this evaluation to the level of the neighborhood, juxtaposing various districts in Vancouver with those in New York to understand how the planning process had led to the physical characterization. At the completion of my research, I gave two presentations of my report to the staff of the City Planning office as well as to Ms. Burden and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

This was my first experience in city government and certainly won't be my last.



Waterfront in Queens, New York

## SAVE the DATE for SCARP's student led 2010 Symposium



### Join us to help organize the 2nd annual student led symposium.

For 2010 we will be exploring the varying themes of resiliency. Similar to last year's event, the symposium will feature panel discussions involving a cross section of graduate students, academics and professional practitioners from different disciplines including architecture, landscape architecture, geography and engineering.

The event is currently scheduled for **March 4-5 2010**, If you have something you would like to present or idea for a panel you would like to organise, we will be requesting submissions towards the end of this year. Any student from SCARP or other faculties interested in joining the organising committee should contact us at [resilient.symposium@gmail.com](mailto:resilient.symposium@gmail.com) Join us for our first meeting on Tuesday November 17 - 12:30 @ WMAX.



## SCARP Celebration of Achievements 2009 - SCARP Students

**Erin Brett** -Graduate Entrance Scholarship - \$2,700

**Metha Brown** -Graduate Entrance Scholarship - \$6,500

**Lindsay Clark** -UBC University Graduate Fellowship - \$16,000

**Jeffrey Deby** -Real Estate Foundation Award in Community & Regional Planning - \$1,000

**Daniella Fergusson** -UBC University Graduate Fellowship - \$16,000

**Jose Fernandez** -Graduate Entrance Scholarship - \$2,700

**Aftab Erfan** - Amacon-Beasley Student Award for Excellence in Urban Planning (PhD Award)  
-Appointment to the Governing Council of the Authentic Leadership in Action Institute

**David Hawkins** -H. Peter Oberlander Medal and Prize - \$1,200

**Nancy Hofer** -Amacon - Beasley Masters Student Award for Christine Wenman and myself for the "Living in False Creek - North, From the Residents' Perspective" submission

-Co-authored a book 'Kitchen Table Sustainability: Practical Recipes for Community Engagement with Sustainability' with Wendy Sarkissian. Published by Earthscan January 2009.

-Award to present the False Creek Research at the PIBC conference

**Sarah Gillett** -Awarded Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council scholarship -2009 - \$17,500

**Waleed Giratalla** -Extension of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS), \$17,300 to start in September of 2009

-Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Graduate Fellowship, \$7,700 to start in September of 2009

**Brian Gregg** -UBC University Graduate Fellowship - December 2008. Obtained acceptance to law school and two law bursaries including: (1) The University of Calgary Bursary in Law and (2) a Student Peer Assistance Law Bursary.

**Callista Haggis** -UBC University Graduate Fellowship - \$16,000

**Yu Kuki** -Heiwa Nakajima Foundation Scholarship (2 years) - \$48,000

**Ugo Lachapelle** -Lachapelle, U. (Forthcoming Nov 2009) "Reconciling the Construct of Walking in Physical Activity and Transportation Research". American Journal of Preventive Medicine. x(x): x-x.

-Lachapelle, U.; Frank, L.; Sallis, J.; Saelens, B.; Conway, T. (Oct. 2009, accepted) "Public Transit Use, Active Transportation and Physical Activity: A Time Use Approach". Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference – Reinvesting in America: The New Metropolitan Planning Agenda. Crystal City, VA, October 1-4, 2009.

-Lachapelle, U (2008) "Mediator, Moderator, or Catalyst? Theoretical Exploration of the Relationship Between Transit Use, Walking and the Built Environment". 7th International Conference on Urban Health, Vancouver, British Columbia. October 29-31, 2008. <http://www.icuh2008.com/>

-Guest speaker, Accessible Transit Roundtable, Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Annual Conference 2009: Partnering for Success - Les partenariats pour le success, Whistler, British Columbia. June 6-10, 2009 [http://www.cutaact.ca/en/cuta\\_annual\\_conference\\_2009\\_whistler\\_british\\_columbia](http://www.cutaact.ca/en/cuta_annual_conference_2009_whistler_british_columbia)

**Ellen Larcombe** -Received Canadian Institutes of Health Research Master's award last year and the UGF this year ( \$16,000)

**Murray McKenzie** -Graduate Entrance Scholarship - \$2,700

**Sawngjai Manityakul**-UBC University Graduate Fellowship - \$16,000 - Jan 09, as well as the SCARP scholarship of \$1,000 earlier this year.  
-SCARP scholarship - \$1,000

**Benita Menzes** -Graduate Entrance Scholarship - \$2,700

**Tamsin Mills** -American Institute of Certified Planners Prize - \$1,200

**Jennie Moore**-Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – DF1

**Darha Phillpot** -SCARP scholarship - \$1,000

**Mathew Rogers** -Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – CGSM – Masters - \$17,500

**Lucia Scodanibbio** -SCARP scholarship - \$1,000

**Komiete Tetteh** -UBC University Graduate Fellowship - \$16,000 in value commencing this winter term

**Iona To** -SCARP scholarship - \$1,000

**Tsz Kit Tse** -William T. Lane Memorial Prize in Planning Law - \$900

**Chris Wenman** -Third author on a book 'Creative Community Planning: Transformative Engagement Methods for Working at the Edge' to be published by Earthscan in January 2010.

-Received a Canadian Institute of Planners scholarship 'Past-President 'Horace Seymour Scholarship' for my research proposal, "Costs, sources and quantity of water in a context of poverty: a case study of Tlamacazapa, Guerrero, Mexico" and will be presenting my work in progress at their conference in October.

-SCARP scholarship - \$1,000

**James White** -PhD University Graduate Fellowship for 2009-2011

**Tate White** -Graduate Entrance Scholarship - \$2,700

**Siu Wai Wong** -Four Year Fellowship award - \$16,000/year

## SCARP Faculty

### **Nora Angeles**

-Co-investigator-UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) -Title: Establishing a Sustainable Platform for Ethical International Service Learning Practices -Amount: \$118,567

-Developed a Field Studio Course in The Philippines that led to the First Annual Municipal Summit, July-August 2008

### **Larry Beasley**

- Award of Excellence, Planning Institute of British Columbia for "Plan Abu Dhabi 2030"

**Anthony Dorcey** -Elected Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP)

**Margo Fryer** -Awarded Margaret Fulton Award for 2008-09 for outstanding contribution to the University community.

### **Penny Gurstein**

-Appointed Director July 1, 2008

-Co-Principal Investigator on Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) - Funded Climate Justice project. Amount: \$1,000,000

-Guest Editor, Journal of Architectural and Planning Research for Special Theme Issue on "Work Beyond Boundaries"

**Tom Hutton** -Appointed Associate Director responsible for Centre for Human Settlement (2008-2010)

### **Tim McDaniels**

-Appointed as a member of a standing committee for the US National Academy of Sciences

**Bill Rees** 1) New Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council award- interregional human ecology and sustainability

2) Several write-ups about me in local media, particularly Vancouver Live and Courier.

3) Major report in NewScientist on my presentation at the Ecological Society of America meetings in Albuquerque last week.

See: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn17569-consumerism-is-eating-the-future.html>

4) Successfully graduated Meidad Kissinger (PhD) and already have 4 co-publications with him.

5) Several other sole author publications

6) second year of his three year Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellowship (\$150,000 plus \$75,000 travel subsidy)

**Leonie Sandercock** -Published a book/DVD package:

L. Sandercock and G. Attili Where Strangers become Neighbours: the integration of immigrants in Vancouver, Canada (Springer, 2009)

**William Trousdale** -2009 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Excellence in International Development

-Working with UNDP and the Palestinian Ministries of Local Government and Planning, EcoPlan to establish the first comprehensive process roadmap for District planning.

**Eric Vance** -Elected a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Management Consultants in May in recognition of my many years of service to the profession.