

# **Landscape Urbanism: An Annotated Bibliography**

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**Allison Duncan (PhD Candidate, Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University, [nacnudnosilla@gmail.com](mailto:nacnudnosilla@gmail.com)) and Ethan Seltzer (Professor, Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University, [seltzere@pdx.edu](mailto:seltzere@pdx.edu))**

## **What is Landscape Urbanism?**

Observations:

- Landscape urbanism is a response to the limited understanding or portrayal of project and site context currently employed by both architects and landscape architects. It is also a notion put forth strategically by landscape architects as a means for differentiating their profession among the design professions, particularly architecture, and in response to the superficial role landscape architects increasingly find themselves in.
- Paradoxically, landscape architects have not generally latched on to this movement as strongly as architects.
- Landscape urbanism is a catch phrase for a range of concepts all reflecting a desire for more flexibility and ecological sensibility than is currently incorporated in design and planning.
- Landscape urbanism appears, at heart, to have a fondness for infrastructure and a desire to incorporate this infrastructure into design without resorting to superficially “shrub it up”.
- The theory and language are in some cases intentionally vague such that the concept serves as a thought exercise instead of something which is actually implementable.
- There is value in arguing the theoretical niceties of landscape urbanism — this dialog digs into the role exterior spaces play in connecting urban fabric while countering the dominant role architecture has played for many years in defining and structuring urban design.
- Many authors define it as a shift from the urban “building block” of architecture to the “structuring medium” of landscape.
- Possibly one of the most fascinating aspects of landscape urbanism is its inclusion of indeterminacy into the design process. Spaces can be too programmed and attempting to leave some flexibility in a design is both interesting and potentially pragmatic in the face of uncertainty.
- Landscape urbanism fundamentally draws attention to context. More to the point, what it demands is the inclusion of landscape in all its forms – built, vernacular, natural, etc. – as the basis for understanding the forces shaping projects and to which projects must respond. In this respect, landscape urbanism promotes an understanding of places and projects based on an ecology that includes people and what they do and have done in the same frame as a comprehensive view of the natural world.

## **Thought leaders:**

People who actively write about the theories of landscape urbanism—not those who are cited as writing the foundational pieces which contribute to the theory of landscape urbanism:

James Corner  
Stan Allen  
Alex Wall

Charles Waldheim

People who have contributed the most descriptive and actionable/practicable writings about landscape urbanism:

Chris Reed  
Christopher Gray  
Peter Connolly  
Richard Weller  
Jusick Koh

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### **An Annotated Bibliography:**

**1. Almy, D., & University of Texas at Austin. (2006a). *On Landscape Urbanism*. Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.**

- Allen, S. (1999). Infrastructural Urbanism. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 174-181). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: Discussion of shift within architecture during the postmodern period toward infrastructure. “Going beyond stylistic or formal issues, infrastructural urbanism offers a new model for practice and a renewed sense of architecture’s potential to structure the future of the city. . . . Infrastructural urbanism marks a return to instrumentality and a move away from the representational imperative in architecture” (p176).

People:

Michel Foucault (*Space, Knowledge, and Power*, 1984)

- Corner, J. (1996). The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique, and Invention. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 148-173). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: “While there are countless examples of authoritarian, simplistic, erroneous and coercive acts of mapping, with reductive effects upon both individuals and environments, I focus in this essay upon more optimistic revisions of mapping practices. These revisions situate mapping as a collective enabling enterprise, a project that both reveals and realizes hidden potential. Hence, in

describing the ‘agency’ of mapping, I do not mean to invoke agendas of imperialist technocracy and control but rather to suggest ways in which mapping may emancipate potentials, enrich experiences and diversify worlds” (p149).

- Koolhaas, R. (1995). Whatever Happened to Urbanism? In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 122-123). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: An essay on the architecture profession’s battle with “the issue of quantity” and how to reapproach the ever increasing urbanism and make it more than structure. He discusses the rise in architecture without context especially at a time when the planet is rapidly urbanizing. “Now we are left with a world without urbanism, only architecture, ever more architecture. . . . The death of urbanism—our refuge in the parasitic security of architecture—creates an immanent disaster: more and more substance is grafted upon starving roots” (p123).

“To survive, urbanism will have to imagine a new newness. Liberated from its atavistic duties, urbanism redefined as a way of operating in the inevitable will attach architecture, invade its trenches, drive it from its bastions, undermine its certainties, explode its limits, ridicule its preoccupations with matte and substance, destroy its traditions, smoke out its practitioners” (p123).

- Lerup, L. (1994). Stim and Dross: Rethinking the Metropolis. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 94-107). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: “The task at hand is, in a most rudimentary way, to trace the lineaments of this city. The desire to capture this elusive creature is audacious and presumptuous, offered in the spirit of Reyner Banham whose ruminations on the Four Ecologies of Los Angeles serve as a constant inspiration, because Houston, most perplexingly (and despite its deeply conservative and isolating tendencies), is a Metropolis waiting and poised for the great adventure” (p96).

In other words—an exploration of Houston using the concepts of Zoohectic and Aerial via the “modalities (speeds) of circulation and appearance” (p98). Dross: “the ignored, undervalued, unfortunate economic residues of the metropolitan machine” (p101) and stims—the areas of stimulation or enclaves within the dross.

- Lewis, P. (1979). Axioms for reading the landscape: Some guides to the American scene. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 22-33). Austin TX.

Thesis: A review of cultural landscapes, what they say about society, and how they can be read. “Although the word is seldom so used, it is proper and important to think of cultural landscape as nearly everything that we can see when we go outdoors. Such common workaday landscape has very little to do with the skilled work of landscape architects, but it has a great deal to say about the United States as a country and Americans as people” (p23).

- Macdonald, C. (2006). Machines of Loving Grace. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 204-211). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

“The theory of Landscape Urbanism begins in the realm of subtle knowledge, then asks no less of us than that we respond totally and with finesse, reconfiguring our habits of perception and subsequently, our habits of *action*” (p204).

“Landscape Urbanism suggests a continuity of experience between the geographies of nature and those of human artifice, insisting that the social realm of human experience at *all times* retains a measure of complicity with concerns beyond the domain of direct human conduct” (p205).

Thesis: A general characterization of Landscape Urbanism prefaces some thoughts about techniques of representation, followed by more general questions concerning the conventions of professional practice and its implicit assumptions” (p204).

- Reed, C. (2006b). Landscape Urbanism Practices: Precis + Case. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 224-227). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

“This essay sets out a number of threads important to the development of the emerging field of landscape urbanism (at least as I see it) that constitute an evolving set of principles at the core of my practice in Boston, StoSS Landscape Urbanism. I attempt to connect current theory and discussions around the topic of landscape urbanism to the realities and potentials of critical practice, first through topical identification and then through the lens of a proposal for the Papago Trail in metropolitan Phoenix” (p225).

Definition (or the closest he gets): increasingly, the operational strategy for landscape urbanism practices centers on urbanism adaptability in the face of change and disturbance. The focus is on catalyzing and coordinating a diverse group of initiatives that lay framework for future appropriations and development. In this way, the ‘DNA’ of the urban-landscape project developed at the outset survives and replicates, though its form may change and develop in response to conditions unforeseen and unknowable” (p228).

People:

Rem Koolhaas

Bernard Tschumi

Stan Allen

Robert Cook

Richard Forman

Robert Smithson

James Corner

Sanford Kwinter

- Sherman, R. (2006). If, Then: Shaping Change as a Strategic Basis for Design. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 238-245). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: A discussion of various types of change (stating that one must assume change instead of stability), complex systems, and ways to incorporate “sufficient looseness with regard to future scenarios” is then followed by a discussion of complex adaptive systems (CAS) and game theory followed by a case study of two properties in Los Angeles.

People:

Rem Koolhaas (support—in “Atlanta: A Reading” 1995)

Stan Allen (“The logistics of context” 2000)

Jane Jacobs (1961)

- de Sola-Morales, I. (1995). *Terrain Vague*. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 108-113). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: Discussion of photography’s role in how we view architecture and the city. The use of photographs has changed our vocabulary and perception of the city so that we become less able to see the city as an entity instead of a series of unlinked spaces or building disconnected from the surroundings. Then segues into a discussion on the definitions and meanings of *terrain vague*.

- Steiner, F. R. (2006). *Living Urban Landscapes*. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 246-253). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Definition: “Our understanding of landscape as a synthesis of natural and social processes gives rise to a new urbanism grounded in ecological literacy, where people as viewed as part of nature. We describe the resulting urban form and our perception of it as *Landscape Urbanism*” (p247).

“How then should we conceive of landscape urbanism? Seven key concepts drive the landscape urbanism discourse:

- ◆ Cities and landscapes change constantly.
- ◆ Technology connects us to one another and to our environment in new ways, changing both how and where we live.

- ◆ A sense of place and a sense of region produce distinct regional and cultural identities.
- ◆ Certain regional identities foster creativity.
- ◆ Landscape-based urban design involves the application of additive structure across several scales.
- ◆ Disciplinary boundaries in design and planning blur in landscape urbanism.
- ◆ Cities are resilient ecosystems” (p247).

Thesis: Steiner discusses each of the above-listed points in his article and follows that with a brief discussion on how this information involves design.

People:

Lawrence Vale (“The City Shall Rise Again: Urban Resilience in the Wake of Disaster”, 2005)

Thomas Campanella (“The City Shall Rise Again: Urban Resilience in the Wake of Disaster”, 2005)

- Waldheim, C. (2006c). Precedents for a North American Landscape Urbanism. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 292-303). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

Thesis: “This essay examines 20<sup>th</sup> century precedents for the contemporary interest in landscape urbanism through two theoretical projects which advocated an organic urbanism for the midsection of North America, namely Frank Lloyd Wright’s Broadacre City (1934-35) and Ludwig Hilberseimer’s New Regional Pattern (1945-49). Both Wright and Hilberseimer aspired to an organic urban form appropriate to the North American context” (p293).

- Wall, A. (1999b). Programming the Urban Surface. In *On Landscape Urbanism* (pp. 182-193). Austin TX: Center for American Architecture and Design University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture.

“Definition”: LU “invokes the functioning matrix of connective tissue that organizes not only objects and spaces but also the dynamic processes and events

that move through them. This is the landscape as an active surface, structuring the conditions for new relationships and interactions among the things it supports” (p182).

Thesis? Topics covered: changing nature of cities, effects of urbanization today, history leading to shifts. In general, a review article covering the history of urban design and a review of Koolhaas’ firm’s, Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), work on projects that author deems laudable and seminal.

Perhaps: “If the problems of urbanization had been identified in the 1950s and 1960 and the new technologies for rethinking these issues were developed during the late 1960s and into the 1970s, then the specific development of new design strategies has occurred since that time, largely under the vision and direction of Koolhaas and OMA” (p184).

Conclusion: “The projects and ideas discussed above address the complexity and density of reconstructing cities and landscapes today. The emphasis is on the extensive reworking of the surface of the earth as a smooth, continuous matrix that effectively binds the increasingly disparate elements of our environment together. This synthetic form of creativity draws from all of the traditional disciplines of landscape architecture, architecture, urban planning, and engineering” (p192).

**2. Blood, J., & Raxworthy, J. (2005). *The Mesh Book: Landscape/Infrastructure*. RMIT. \_**

- Connolly, P. (2004a). Making Landscape Urbanism Landscape architectural: Part I. In *The Mesh Book: landscape/infrastructure* (pp. 76-103).

Thesis: “The focus of the first section of this paper involves providing some relevant departure points for this exploration by revisiting some of the already institutionalized preoccupations of landscape urbanism in a pre-institutionalised

manner. The main section of my paper will focus on a more detailed examination of conceptualizations which are influential in landscape urbanism. These include an extended examination of the key ideas of the architectural ‘landscape urbanist’ Alex Wall, a brief look at the ‘infrastructural practice’ of architect Stan Allen and a reconsideration of the notion of mapping from the most important landscape architectural landscape urbanist James Corner. . . .The final section more explicitly attempts to lay out principles for making landscape urbanism landscape architectural. This is based upon an elaboration of what I term ‘openness’—being both the condition of the landscape and an implied form of operation. I argue that openness is implied in landscape urbanism but the full implications of this openness have not been explored. The future of this exploration seems particularly landscape architectural” (p77).

People:

Gilles Deleuze

Rem Koolhaas

Jane Jacobs

James Corner

Charles Waldheim

Alex Wall

Henri Lefebvre

Elizabeth Meyer (1992—*Landscape architecture as modern other and post-modern ground*)

- Connolly, P. (2004b). Embracing Openness: Making Landscape Urbanism Landscape Architectural, Part II. In *The Mesh Book: landscape/infrastructure* (pp. 200-219).

Copied from Pt1:

The final section more explicitly attempts to lay out principles for making landscape urbanism landscape architectural. This is based upon an elaboration of what I term ‘openness’—being both the condition of the landscape and an implied

form of operation. I argue that openness is implied in landscape urbanism but the full implications of this openness have not been explored. The future of this exploration seems particularly landscape architectural” (p77).

People:

James Corner

Deleuze and Guattari

Interesting:

“In this essay, I have moved from a more obviously architectural example of landscape urbanism, in Alex Wall’s ‘programming the urban surface’ through to the most well-known landscape architectural version in James Corner’s ‘mapping’. The aim of this venture is partly to account for what I refer to as the ‘landscape urbanism effect’, and to re-orient the current assemblage to glimpse ways that landscape architecture might develop a fully-affirmed landscape architectural landscape urbanism. . . . I hope that I have been able to account for such an affect and to show why the current received model may be largely unsuitable for landscape architecture. I aim to have at least registered something of what an interested landscape architect might feel about landscape urbanism, but maybe not ‘put their finger on it’. The primary obviousness, I would contend, is that landscape urbanism, as currently portrayed, seems foreign to landscape architecture. I would also contend that this is not because architecture has ‘bested’ landscape architects on their own turf with a superior practice, but because it is largely irrelevant to landscape architecture, and the landscape itself. Does this mean there might be two landscape urbanisms? Or maybe many?”

- Poole, K. (2004b). Potentials for Landscape as Infrastructure, Part II: Creative Infrastructures: Dynamic Convergences of Urban Ecology, Infrastructure and Civic Life. In *The Mesh Book: landscape/infrastructure* (pp. 180-199).

Thesis: Extension of discussion begun in Part 1 (Potentials for Landscapes as Infrastructure): “I extend that discussion by exploring a characteristic inherent to landscape infrastructures—the notion of civic. Since ‘infrastructures’ are those

essential elements and systems necessary to accommodate congregated living in communities and cities, landscape infrastructures are necessarily ‘civic’ in that they sever the common good” (p181). Poole focuses her argument upon municipal stormwater systems, saying, “. . . municipal infrastructure has intentionally expressed societal values about the relationships of non-human and human constructions within the shared space of the city” (p181).

“This essay explores how we might reinvigorate civic expression—and more importantly, civic life—through another of landscape infrastructure’s inherent characteristics: the enlisting of the landscape’s ecological processes and systems” (p182).

“The ultimate intention of the essay is to propose a direction for re—imagining infrastructure as not only a physical construct but as a transformed conceptual framework that recasts the framework of ‘Six-and-a-half-Degrees’ and the very nature of physical infrastructure” (p182).

[Book: Six-and-a-Half Degrees of Infrastructure]

People:

Hannah Arendt (*The public realm: The common*, 1987)

Walter Hood (*Blues & Jazz: Landscape Improvisations*, 1993)

- Weller, R., & Musiatowicz, M. (2004). Landscape Urbanism: Polemics Toward an Art of Instrumentality? In *The Mesh Book: landscape/infrastructure* (pp. 66-75).

Thesis: “By scanning some recent relevant theory and reviewing a couple examples of application, this essay explores the possibility that the incipient movement of landscape urbanism holds some potential answers” (to how LA and arch can regain some influence in today’s culture without becoming “utopian”) (p66).

Definition: “According to Charles Waldheim . . . landscape urbanism ‘describes a disciplinary realignment currently underway in which landscape is usurping architecture’s historical role as the basic building block of city making.’ Closer to a definition is Waldheim’s suggestion that landscape urbanism might entail imaginatively reordered relationships between ecology and infrastructure. Landscape urbanism is notoriously difficult to define” (p66).

People:

Charles Waldheim (uses his definition of LU) (*landscape urbanism: A genealogy*, 2003)

James Corner (as the source of term)

Stan Allen (cited from Waldheim: *landscape urbanism: A genealogy*, 2003)

Adrian Geuze (cited from Lootsma: *Biomorphic intelligence and landscape urbanism*, 2002)

Rem Koolhaas (*whatever happened to urbanism?*)

Manuel De Landa (*A Thousand Years of Non-Linear History*, 2000)

Alex Wall (*Programming the urban surface*, 1999)

**3. Buttimer, A. (1998). Landscape and Life: Appropriate Scales for Sustainable Development. *Irish Geography*, 31(1), 1-33. doi:10.1080/00750779809478629**

Thesis: In an attempt to develop a better understanding of sustainable development, this paper summarizes some research done regarding sustainable development using case studies in Europe and more specifically in Ireland (from 1950-1990), and then “describes some regional differences in response to external—policy and market-driven—influences” (p1). A central reason of the LLASS study was “to develop an analytical framework for a more comprehensive understanding of the changing relationships between people and their environments” (p1-2).

(LLASS: Landscape and Life: Appropriate Scales for Sustainable Development)

Good thought: “Central themes in the LLASS project were scale and appropriateness. . . . Scale can be measures in objective spatio-temporal and/or functional terms. Appropriateness is a matter of judgment. . . . In real life situations, however, these functions interweave. Together they constitute the lived horizons of people in actual places; options taken in one region bear implications for other regions at scales ranging from local to global” (p2).

Links to LU: “all inherited scale boundaries of landscape (territorial or functional) or of mindscape (disciplinary, thematic, or institutional) are best regarded as sedimentations from a previous era, serving the purposes of particular places, functions, and periods; if they refuse to adapt to changing (environmental) circumstances, they are fated for arterial sclerosis, obsolescence or catalysts for conflict” (p30).

**4. Brands, C. (2007). *Landscape Urbanism - Kerb 15 (Landscape Urbanism.)*. RMIT Press. \_\_\_\_**

- Bull, J. (n.d.). Space of Waste. In *Landscape Urbanism--Kerb 15 (Landscape Urbanism.)*.

Definition: “Embroided in its own definition, landscape urbanism seems to exceed even the neologistic orgies occasionally rife in post-modern discourses. There is a facileness in giving an existing approach a new name as the focus on its definition then tends to obscure much of its palliative intention. Landscape urbanism does aim to please Mother Nature, even if its terminology can muddy water and fog thoughts” (p57).

Thesis: “Humans, as in the past, are once again attempting to be more symbiotic with nature in our environments and designs due to a period of time of industrialization and its attendant problems”.

People: n/a

- An Interview with Mohsen Mostafavi. (n.d.). In *Landscape Urbanism--Kerb 15 (Landscape Urbanism.)*.

“Definition”—“Landscape urbanism is a projective mode of thinking—that’s why I used the word ‘anticipatory’. It’s also kicking against something; it’s saying I don’t know exactly where this is going” (p41).

Thesis: n/a

People: no one contemporary

- Gray, C. (n.d.). Turning the Field: Contradictions in Landscape Urbanism. In *Landscape Urbanism--Kerb 15* (Landscape Urbanism., pp. 94-100). [Good article]

Definition: “Very simplistically, landscape urbanism is a strategic approach to the formation of an urban scheme through the transformation of processes related to landscape” (P94). (Best line: “The jargon, synthetic words and intractable sentences are essentially a response to the complexity of what the authors want to tackle: the entire urban scene” (p99).)

Thesis: Exploration of the contradictions found regarding interpretation of the term (concept) of LU and where the author believes LU will go in the future.

People (Reviews various people’s statements regarding LU without much judgment.):

James Corner (pro and con. Calls his description of term ‘a little disingenuous and simplistic’, like his use of term “landshaft”)

Sanford Kwinter (supports) (likes use of term “territory”)

Ciro Najle

Alejandro Zaera-Polo

Bart Lootsma

Christophe Girot

- Read, S. (n.d.). Thickening the Surface: Or, What is an "Ecological Landscape" Exactly? In *Landscape Urbanism--Kerb 15* (pp. 8-13).

Definition: “Landscape urbanism aims and claims to engage with the city as an ecology, as a problem of interrelations and dynamic surfaces and wholes. . . .’ The

aim is to mobilise landscape's conceptual scope; its capacity to theorise sites, territories, ecosystems, networks and infrastructures, and to organise large urban fields. In particular, thematics of organisation, dynamic interaction, ecology, and technique point to a looser, emergent urbanism, more akin to the real complexity of cities and offering an alternative to the rigid mechanisms of centralist planning' (Quoting Corner)" (p8).

Thesis: "Landscape urbanism aims and claims to engage with the city as an ecology, as a problem of interrelations and dynamic surfaces and wholes". Examines the conceptual framework various theories use to analyze and model the city saying that the way we've done it (still often do it) is inadequate. "But what we are dealing with here is still a surface; more complex and considered and overtly hybrid perhaps than that of the modernists, but still a surface with no clear idea, beyond the act of design, of how materialisation happens. There is no notion of how the landscape may itself differentiate and form come into being" (p10).

People:

Graham Shane (pro) (recombinant urbanism)

As counterargument (exposes "weak point[s] in the argument of:

Bernard Tschumi

Rem Koolhaas

Adrian Geuze

Katherine Hayles (How we became posthuman)

Augustin Berque (overcoming modernity, yesterday and today)

Saskia Sassen (The Global City)

Gilles Deleuze (uses his term "machinic": definition: "it is understood in terms of the relations between the components, relations that are not necessarily dependent upon the components themselves".

Conrad Waddington

- Ware, S. (n.d.). Turn Left at Albuquerque. In *Landscape Urbanism--Kerb 15* (Landscape Urbanism., pp. 50-55).

Definition: “Various authors . . . lay claim to what landscape urbanism should be and/or how it can be considered. There seems to be some sort of need to find a definitive position about what *it* is specifically versus what *it* does or can do. I find these arguments tediously banal and quintessentially against why designers and more specifically landscape architects may be engaging in landscape urbanism. . . . Who cares? . . . I am not dismissing that there needs to be discourse which questions various positions and ideas but the significance of landscape urbanism for me lies in how it operates variously through design and design speculation. It can be any number of things that deal with complex open and emergent systems” (p54).

Thesis: Discussion of her time teaching for 6 months in ABQ and the spatial experiences she had there.

- Weller, R. (n.d.). Global Theory, Local Practice: Landscape Urbanism and Some Recent Design Projects and UWA. In *Landscape Urbanism--Kerb 15* (Landscape Urbanism.).

Definition:

“. . . landscape urbanism is holistic and therefore interdisciplinary. It is rooted in landscape processes but it is not naturalistic, nor is it utopian modernism, critical regionalism or new urbanism” (p66).

Thesis: Weller seeks to scrutinize the theories behind LU as well as reflect on some student design work from the AA school in London.

People:

Ciro Najle (quotes Najle’s LU mantra.)

Chris Reed (Reed’s definition of LU in *The LU Reader*)

James Corner (pro and con)

Kelly Shannon (unsure)

Grahame Shane (The emergence of landscape urbanism)

Charles Waldheim (pro and con)

5. **Corner, J. (Ed.). (1999). *Recovering Landscape*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.**
6. **Czerniak, J. (1997). *Challenging the Pictorial: Recent Landscape Practice. Assemblage, (34), 110-120.***

Thesis: More of a literature review, this essay is an in-depth analysis of three books and how they relate to standard perceptions of nature and the tradition of picturesque. “Unwilling to affirm these pictorial limits, some contemporary landscape architects are embracing an alternative view of nature. Within the seemingly diverse practices represented by three recent books ---Taking Measures Across the American Landscape, Hargreaves: Landscape Works, and Adriaan Geuze: WEST 8 Landscape Architecture --landscape emerges as a physical and cultural process with varied spatial and temporal scales. By recognizing landscape's affinity with architecture as a system of representation and by strategizing the communication of landscape ideas, these publications challenge the tyranny of the pictorial embedded in landscape production” (p111).

7. **Gray, C. (2005, June). *From emergence to divergence: modes of landscape urbanism (Master of Architecture (MArch) Degree)*. School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art: University of Edinburgh.**

Thesis:

“The aim of this dissertation is therefore to study the development of landscape urbanism and define the different modes in which the field can be understood; Subsequently the paper will investigate the contrasting manifestations of the two schools of thought through their diverging theories and methods” (p3).

People: too numerous to mention

Definitions:

Working definition (his?): “landscape urbanism is the approach to the design and planning of open space where landscape is the structuring medium. Landscape urbanism considers the

horizontal field over the vertical field-ground and secondly, it describes a move from the pictorial to the operational; in other words process (both in analysis and design synthesis) is favored over a static end form” (p89).

Cites 8 different other definitions.

Waldheim (2006): Landscape urbanism describes a disciplinary realignment currently under way in which landscape replaces architecture as the basic building block of contemporary urbanism. For many, across a range of disciplines, landscape has become both the lens through which the contemporary city is represented and the medium through which it is constructed.

AA Graduate Prospectus (2005): Landscape Urbanism’s methodology is multidisciplinary by definition. Expanding from the legacy of landscape design to consider the complexity of contemporary urban dynamics, it integrates knowledge and techniques from such disciplines as environmental engineering, urban strategy, landscape ecology, the development industry and architecture.

AA website (2006): Landscape Urbanism constitutes a collective endeavor to construct a new mode of practice where techniques and modes of operation historically described as landscape design can be integrated into the domain of urbanism. Landscape is incorporated primarily to provide a thematic and scalar opportunity to engage directly with the systems of forces that continuously reconfigure the city. It offers the double opportunity to re-frame urban problems and to re-contextualize the practice in general.

Ruth Durack (2004): [landscape urbanism is] a call to turn the traditional practice of urban design inside out, starting with open spaces and natural systems to structure urban form, instead of buildings and infrastructure systems.

Ignacio Bunster-Ossa (2001): The objective [of landscape architecture] is to create a seamless green urban fabric: fusion, rather than division, is the order of the day.

Michael Hensel (2003): this emergent discipline [landscape urbanism] is not primarily about a sort of landscape gestalt—making cities look like landscape—but rather entails a shift in emphasis from the figure-ground composition of urban fabric towards conceiving urban surface as a generative field that facilitates and organizes dynamic relations between the conditions it hosts.

James Corner (2003): a complex amalgam, landscape urbanism is more than a singular image or style: it is an ethos, an attitude, a way of thinking and acting. In many ways it can be seen as a response to the failure of traditional urban design and planning to operate effectively in the contemporary city.

Stan Allen (2002): Increasingly, landscape is emerging as a model for urbanism. Landscape has traditionally been defined as the art of organizing horizontal surfaces. It bears an obvious relationship to the extended field of the contemporary city, and also to the newly emerging interest in topological surface. By paying careful attention to these surface conditions—not only configuration, but also materiality and performance—designers can activate space and produce urban effects without the weighty apparatus of traditional space making.

**8. Herrington, S. (2010). The Nature of Ian McHarg's Science. *Landscape Journal*, 29(1), 2-20. doi:Article**

Thesis: The author examines Ian McHarg's ecological views and contributions to the industry but also points out his errors and contradictions in his theories and methods (such as enclosure or stability) and how they continue to influence landscape architecture and the new field of landscape urbanism. (And how the field should place him in a historic context.)

**9. Hersperger, A. M. (1994). Landscape Ecology and Its Potential Application to Planning. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 9(1), 14-29. doi:10.1177/088541229400900102**

Thesis: “This review summarizes the characteristics and concepts of landscape ecology and the existing approaches of its application for planning. Even though the theories of landscape ecology and the concepts of landscape ecological planning are not yet well established, they

show potential to change the traditional environmental planning approach toward a true synthesis of people and nature” (p14).

“Landscape ecology is a promising science for planning because of its emphasis on the interface between humans and nature and its recognition of change as a fundamental landscape quality. Integrating people and nature is a traditional planning intention, but what distinguishes a landscape ecology-based planning approach is the focus on spatial change involving interacting biophysical and sociocultural processes” (p14).

**10. Hough, M. (1995). *Cities and Natural Process* (2nd ed.). Routledge.**

Overall thesis: “Its overall thesis is that the traditional design values that have shaped the physical landscape of our cities have contributed little to their environmental health, or to their success as civilizing, enriching places to live in” (p1).

5 general areas of concern: “alienation of urban society from environmental values;”  
“little attention has been paid to understanding the natural processes that have contributed to the physical form of the city;  
“ the urban process has issues which require enormous amounts of natural resources (water, etc);  
“questions of aesthetic values from which the city’s formal landscape has evolved;  
“questions of environmental values and perceptions and of how we respond to the environments around us” (p1-2).

**11. Koh, J. (2009). *Articulating Landscape Urbanism: Ten Defining Characteristics*. In *Green infrastructure: high performance landscapes* (p. 19). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: IFLA.**

Thesis: “This paper advances three claims: (1) that it is necessary to articulate the nature of landscape urbanism, its intellectual basis and cultural significance, (2) that such articulation is possible by defining landscape urbanism as a ‘landscape approach’ to urbanism, and thus

articulating this approach, and (3) that ten defining characteristics can be offered to explain both the significance and reason for the rise of landscape urbanism and landscape approach” (p1).

Definitions:

Waldheim (2007): Landscape Urbanism describes a disciplinary realignment currently underway in which landscape replaces architecture as the basic building block of contemporary urbanism. For many, across a range of disciplines, landscape has become both the lens through which the contemporary city is represented and the medium through which it is constructed

Bunster-Ossa: inside-out reversal of the city/landscape relationship...placing open space concerns at the core of planning and design of urban areas.

## **12. Kwinter, S., (1992). Landscapes of Change: Boccioni's "Stati d'animo" as a General Theory of Models. *Assemblage*, (19), 50-65.**

Thesis: About futurism and its contribution to theories of form: “...futurism’s profoundest gift to our century was its seemingly hubristic attempt to link the biosphere and the mechanosphere with a single dynamical system.” (53) Analyses Umberto Boccioni’s series of paintings, “Stati d’animo”, as a demonstration of the ways that space and time interact as a series of flows combining and breaking apart, contrast of stability and fragmentation, what does this mean? Reviews theories of form to create a framework for understanding, limits of classical models (can reveal changes only in degree (quantity) not kind (quality)), theories of change in kind lead to dynamical models marked by catastrophes... energy systems and dissipative structures: “The flow of energy through a system ensures the following: 1. That information from outside the system will pass to the inside. ... 2. That information from certain levels in the system is transported to other levels, with results that may be very dramatic.” (59) Proposes that catastrophe theory is a useful way to understand these dramatic changes and that such theories recognize all forces acting in a field (as in LU which brings into focus a context that is seen to be ecologic rather than merely cultural): “A form arises from something called a deployment universal (“universal unfolding”), a dynamical pathway in which every virtuality is activated, even though only some get chosen. Forms are always new and unpredictable unfoldings shaped by their adventures in time. And, as we will see, only a fold offers the proper conditions to sustain another unfolding.” (here, read “form” as “design”...) association of forms with

systems, hence link to LU.

**13. Lister, N., (2007). Sustainable Large Parks: Ecological Design or Designer Ecology? In *Large Parks* (p31-51).**

Thesis: “In particular, large parks pose specific challenges for long-term sustainability in terms of design, planning, management, and maintenance, principally due to their actual and potential biodiversity couples with the complexity inherent in their ecology and program. Indeed, ‘largeness’ is a singularly important criterion that demands a different approach to design, planning, management, and maintenance—one that explicitly provides the capacity for resilience in the face of long-term adaptation to change, and thus for ecological, cultural, and economic vitality. This chapter explores such an approach to design as a response to issues of complexity and sustainability in the context of ‘large’ (p35).

People:

Sim Van der Ryn and Stuart Cowan

Ann Dale (At the Edge: Sustainable development in the twenty-first century, 2001)

C.S. Hollings (The Resilience of Terrestrial Ecosystems: Local surprise and global change, 1986)

Ian McHarg

**14. Lister, N., (2005). Ecological Design for Industrial Ecology: Opportunities for Re(dis)covery. In *Linking Industry and Ecology: A question of design* (p15-28).**

Thesis: “When applied outside the utilitarian envelope of manufacturing, ecological processes may be used both tangibly and symbolically to connect a human-designed built form to its ecological context. Indeed . . . the reconciliation of these domains is essential for meaningful sustainable development. In this sense, and in the spirit of exploring connections for this chapter, I suggest broader societal context(s) for industrial ecology, in which it can be situated comfortably within a simultaneously evolving discipline called ecological design” (p15).

People: Extensive citations of ecological and sustainability research

**15. McHarg, I. L. (1995). *Design with Nature* (1st ed.). Wiley.**

“Let us accept the proposition that nature is process, that it is interacting, that it responds to laws, representing values and opportunities for human use with certain limitations and even prohibitions to certain of these. . . . We can take this proposition to confront and resolve many problems” (p7).

Unless humans apply ecological planning and the full extent of scientific understanding of ecology and human behavior patterns, we are destined to destroy our natural resources and the environment. (A bit extreme phrasing?) We must know, and consider, biological, chemical, cultural, social, and economic limitations.

**16. Mostafavi, M. (2004). *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. AA Publications.**

- Barth, L. (2003). Diagram, Dispersal, Region. In *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. Architectural Association.

Discusses the role of the diagram—but the diagram in a representative form as used by Foucault.

Thesis: “What follows is a short sketch concerning the condition and practice of diagrammatic urbanism, one which attempts a crude description of the shape of this wider strategic domain. Ultimately, the aim is to discover a heightened political and analytical significance for diagrammatic architecture as it moves more aggressively onto the terrain of urbanism” (p34).

People:

Rem Koolhaas (1994—*Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan*)

Mike Davis (2000—*Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the US City*)

Stan Allen (2000—Practice: Architecture, Technique, and Representation)

Michel Foucault

Gilles Deleuze

Michel de Certeau (1984—The Practice of Everyday Life) Rejects

- Corner, J. (2003). Landscape Urbanism. In *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. Architectural Association.

“Paradoxical and complex, landscape urbanism involves understanding the full mix of ingredients that comprise a rich urban ecology. . . . As a complex amalgam, landscape urbanism is more than a singular image or style: it is an ethos, an attitude, a way of thinking and acting. In many ways it can be seen as a response to the failure of traditional urban design and planning to operate effectively in the contemporary city” (p58).

“[It] marks a productive attitude towards indeterminacy, open-endedness, intermixing, and cross-disciplinarity. Unlike the overly simplified view of the city as a static composition . . . landscape urbanism views the emergent metropolis as a thick, living mat of accumulated patches and layered systems, with no singular authority or control. Such a dynamic, open-ended matrix can never be operated upon with any certainty as to outcome and effect. It escapes design, and even more so, planning. The contemporary metropolis is out of control—and this is not a weakness but its strength” (p59).

Thesis: Discussion of 5 general themes within LU: Horizontality, infrastructures, Forms of Process, Techniques, Ecology.

People:

David Harvey (2001—*Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography*)

- Hensel, M. (2003). Ocean North--Surface Ecologies. In *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. Architectural Association.

No real discussion regarding LU (mostly discussion of his firm, their approach to design, and a couple of projects—however, does somewhat define LU)

“What is landscape urbanism? The argument pursued herein starts from the position that this emergent discipline is not primarily about a sort of landscape

gestalt—making cities look like landscape—but rather entails a shift in emphasis from the figure-ground composition of urban fabric towards conceiving urban surfaces as a generative field that facilitates and organizes dynamic relations between the conditions it hosts. This addresses in particular the built environment—with articulated surfaces as its medium—and the subject, both individually and collectively. . . . In what way can such an alternative approach to design acknowledge and incorporate indeterminability and contingencies relative to the way in which material surfaces might be appropriated, without merely becoming incoherent problem-solving actions?”(p111)

- Hight, C. (2003). Portraying the Urban Landscape: Landscape in Architectural Criticism and Theory, 1650-Present. In *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. Architectural Association.

“Landscape urbanism ultimately suggests neither a new formalism nor a renewed emphasis on landscape in the city. It is not a theory of design, but promises to innovate at the level of design *practice*. . . . Thus beneath the renewed interest in landscape lies an implicit assertion that bringing the design practices of urbanism and architecture into contact with that of landscape will rejuvenate all three” (p22).

Discusses the ethos of landscape urbanism: While attempting to combine the conflicting ethos of architecture with landscape design, Hight states: “Landscape urbanism, if it is to be anything, must be understood as an attempt ‘to constitute a kind of ethics as an aesthetics of existence’” (p24). This seems contradictory to Mostafavi above.

Some discussion regarding landscape as an operating system compared to its history in the picturesque. A very general article with emphasis on history.

Thesis: LU requires a certain type of ethos. Ethos—“a way of doing and a mentality which privileges certain values” (p23). “I want to highlight the

complex relationship architecture and urbanism have enjoyed with the idea of landscape, as well as the irreducibly complex conditions of landscape as a mode of operation” (p24).

People:

Deleuze & Guattari: *A Thousand Plateaus*

Michel Foucault

Alex Wall: *Supportive* (1999—*Programming the Urban Surface*)

Reyner Banham (1996—*A Black Box: The Secret Profession of Architecture, 1962—Kent and Capability*)—partial agreement with respect to concept of landscape design as painting originally. In general—rejection of Banham’s view of landscape as language of inferiority.

Sanford Kwinter (1992 article, *Landscapes of Change*). “By reintroducing architecture to morphogenesis and nonlinear science, this article was central to the emergence of landscape design as a new mode for architectural practice” (p27).

Rosalind Krauss (1997—*Formless: A User’s Guide*).

- Mostafavi, M. (2003). *Landscapes of Urbanism*. In *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. Architectural Association.

“Landscape urbanism consists of both a longer and a shorter timescale than that of building construction. . . . Consequently the urban surface becomes a site of new and unexpected events. The methods of landscape urbanism are operative, they prioritize the way in which things work and the way in which they are used (p8).

Discusses a shift from “image-based planning process” to “operative method”. Compares this to agriculture and crop production. Discusses the role of external forces which play major role in shaping cities such as planning regulations, financial markets, etc.

Presents a brief overview of how we have traditionally viewed urbanism—discusses modernism, planning role in urbanism.

Probable thesis: “The modern city, however, emphasized regularity more than fantasy and imagination, and order rather than tumult. And perhaps this is because there was yet another aspect of the landscape tradition that had remained unexplored: its temporal characteristics. The temporality of landscapes renders them forever incomplete, and this incompleteness can be seen as an antidote to the implicit finitude of zoning” (p6).

People:

Gilles Deleuze/Bergson

- Najle, Ciro. (2003). Convoluteness. In Mostafavi, Mohsen & Najle, Ciro (Eds.), *Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape*. Architectural Association.

Thesis: “Of all possible categories, convoluteness does not seem to deserve a manifesto: discredited in principle by mechanism, it was imprisoned as an accident in the spatial continuum, like a ‘calamitous monstrosity’. But in fact, only convoluteness incarnates and instigates the regime of complexity that forces the emergence of an integrative intelligence where architecture participates and potentially commands” (p161).

**17. Waldheim, C. (2006b). *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.**

- Berger, A. (2006). Drosscape. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 197-218). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “Adaptively reusing this waster landscape [drosscape] figures to be one of the twenty-first century’s great infrastructural design challenges. This essay chronicles this condition and suggests that those with an understanding of both landscape and urbanization will be best positioned to act on these sites in the future” (p199).

People:

Lars Lerup (*Stim and Dross*, 1995)

Joseph Schumpeter (1942)

- Corner, J. (2006). Terra Fluxus. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “What is the precise nature of this hybrid [landscape urbanism], and how are each of the terms *landscape* and *urbanism* altered?” (p23) After a brief historical review, Corner then discusses some relevant themes: “By way of providing a schematic outline for such a practice, I can sketch four provisional themes: processes over time, the staging of surfaces, the operational or working method, and the imaginary” (p28).

Definition? “In other words, the union of landscape with urbanism promises new relational and systemic workings across territories of vast scale and scope, situating the parts in relation to the whole, but at the same time the separateness of landscape from urbanism acknowledges a lever of material physicality, of intimacy and difference, that is always nested deep within the larger matrix or field” (p33).

People:

Jens Jensen (Siftings, 1990)

Frederick Law Olmsted

Victor Gruen (The Heart of our Cities: The Urban Crisis, Diagnosis and Cure, 1964)

Ian McHarg

David Harvey (The Condition of Post-Modernity, 1990)

Walter Christaller (Central Place Theory, 1966)

Ludwig Hilberseimer (New Regional Pattern, 1949).

Rem Koolhaas (*Whatever Happened to Urbanism*, 1995)

Louis Kahn (*Philadelphia City Planning: Traffic Studies*, 1951-53)

- Czerniak, J. (2006). Looking Back at Landscape Urbanism: Speculations on Site. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 105-124). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “Conceiving of site in this way [in relation to nested scales] suggests that

landscape design projects can not only draw from an expanded field of information, they can impact areas larger than their own physical extent . . . making ecological sense.

“. . . I would suggest that ordering architectural intentions over the surface of the ground mimics cleared-site thinking by accommodating particularities such as steep slopes and degraded soils rather than generating from more complex conceptions of site” (p107).

Definition: “. . . landscape urbanism, a phrase taken here to be the conceptualization of and design and planning for urban landscapes that draw from an understanding of, variously, landscape’s disciplinarity (history of ideas), functions (ecologies and economies), formal and spatial attributes (both natural and cultural organizations, systems, and formations), and processes (temporal qualities) impacting many scales of work. Landscape urbanism also suggests a particular culture of and consciousness about the land that refrains from the superficial reference to sustainability, ecology, and the complex processes of our environments in favor of projects that actually engage them. Embedded in landscape urbanism is concern not only with how landscape performs . . .but how it appears . . . “ (p108).

- Girot, C. (2006). *Vision in Motion: Representing Landscape in Time* (pp. 87-104). In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “In the present context of landscape urbanism in Europe today, the potential impact of the moving image on both urban design and decision-making processes is considerable. It is of particular interest to urban landscape architecture to consider the extent to which such a mode of visual thinking can affect the shaping of future sites” (p89).

People:

Stefano Boeri and Giovanni Lavarra (*Mutatmenti del Territorio*, 2002)

Volko Kamensky (Divina Obsesion, film, 1999)

Michel Conan (*Mouvement et metaphore du temps*, 2003)

Michel Foucault (Les mots et les choses, 1966)

- Mossop, E. (2006). Landscapes of Infrastructure. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 163-178). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: Review of history and current projects which incorporate infrastructure as a connection between the city and the natural world.

People:

Frederick Law Olmsted

James Corner (*Terra Fluxus*, 1999)

Stan Allen (*Infrastructural Infrastructure*, 1999)

Rem Koolhaas (*Urban Operations*, 1999)

Richard Marshall (*Size Matters*, 2003)

Ian McHarg

Hideo Sasaki

Michael Hough (City Form and Natural Process, 1984)

Anne Spirn (The Granite Garden, 1984)

Bart Lootsma (*Biomorphic Intelligence and Landscape Urbanism*, 2002)

- Pollak, L. (2006). Constructed Ground: Questions of Scale. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 125-139). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “This text will focus primarily on one term, that of space, which exemplifies, in the opposition object/space, architecture’s tendency to disacknowledge that which is around it” (p128).

People:

Henri Lefebvre (Production of Space, 1991)

Doreen Massey (Space, Place, and Gender, 1994)

Stuart Hall (*On Postmodernism and Articulation: An Interview with Stuart Hall*, 1986)

Rem Koolhaas (*Life in the Metropolis or the Culture of Congestion*, 1977)

Immanuel Kant (Critique of Judgment, 1987)

- Shane, G. (2006). The Emergence of Landscape Urbanism. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 55-68). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “In this brief essay I trace the recent trajectory of the idea of landscape urbanism and the expanded field of urban design . . . “(p57). He also discusses that the “question facing American postindustrial cities in the wake of Fordism is what to do about the abandoned factories, acres of vacant workers’ housing, and redundant commercial strips. How should once mighty cities shrink and recede back into the landscape? (p58).

Definition—Uses Waldheim’s definition: “as an interstitial design discipline, operating in the spaces between buildings, infrastructural system, and natural ecologies. In these contexts, landscape urbanism became a useful lens through which to view those ‘unseen’ residual *terrain vagues*. . . “(p59).

People (The regulars along with):

Carl Troll

Gary Hack

Michael P. Conzen (The Making of the American Landscape, 1990)

Cedric Price

Franz Oswald

Paolo Vigano (La Citta Elementare, 1999)

- Shannon, K. (2006). From Theory to Resistance: Landscape Urbanism in Europe. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 141-162). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: “The conventions of urban history, urban planning, and urban design are insufficient to understand and qualitatively intervene in the contemporary condition. Radical rethinking of urbanisms’ modus operandi is necessary to fundamentally and critically re-engage in the making of cities. The poignant stance of Frampton and his belief in landscape as an operative tool to resist the

globalizing and homogenizing tendencies of built environments has provided a platform for the conceptual evolution of landscape urbanism” (p144).

People:

Alexander Tzonis and Liane Lefaivre (*The Grid and the Pathway*, 1981)

Kenneth Frampton (*Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance*, 1983)

Sebastien Marot (Sub-urbanism and the Art of Memory, 2003)

Marcel Smets (*Grid, Casco, Clearing and Montage*, 2002)

Richard Plunz and Inaki Echeverria (*Beyond the Lake: A Gardener's Logic*, 2001)

Andrea Brazi (*Unpredictable City Planning*, 2003)

Francois Grether and Michel Desvigne (*Infiltration Strategy*, 2001)

Rem Koolhaas (S, M, L, XL, 1995)

Paolo Vigano (Territories of a New Modernity, 2001)

- Waldheim, C. (2006a). Landscapes as Urbanism. In *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* (pp. 35-54). New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Thesis: basically a review article of the history and path of LU along with the oft-cited projects Parc de la Villette, Downsview Park, etc.

People:

Stan Allen

James Corner

Patrick Geddes

Benton MacKaye

Lewis Mumford

Ian McHarg

Charles Jencks

Bernard Tschumi

Rem Koolhaas

Kenneth Frampton

Peter Rowe (Making a Middle Landscape)

Adriaan Geuze

Etc.

**18. Shane, G. (n.d.). The Emergence of "Landscape Urbanism": Reflections on Stalking Detroit. *Harvard Design Magazine, Fall 2003/Winter 2004*(Number 19), 1-7.**

Sort of a run-on article (like this sentence) talking about the book Stalking Detroit, the town itself, and various books and articles which may relate to the issue of the disappearing city. “Given this ‘decompression,’ the question facing American postindustrial cities in rustbelts like Detroit is what to do about the abandoned factories and acres of vacant workers’ housing, with redundant commercial strips. How should once mighty cities shrink and die back into the landscape?” (p2)

Definition: (Waldheim) “. . . as a branch of landscape ecology, concentrating on the organization of human activities in the natural landscape. He highlighted the leftover void spaces of the city as potential commons. Waldheim saw Landscape Urbanism, like landscape architecture, as an interstitial design discipline, operating in the spaces between buildings, infrastructural systems, and natural ecologies. These were ‘unseen,’ residual *terrain vagues* once inhabited by conceptual and land” (p4).

People:

James Corner

Rem Koolhaas

Bernard Tschumi

Patrick Schumacher and Christian Rogner (*After Ford*)

Georgia Daskalakis, Charles Waldheim, Jason Young (Stalking Detroit)

Camillo Vergara

Robert Smithson

Ignasi Sola-Morales

**19. Sieverts, T. (2003). *Cities Without Cities: An Interpretation of the Zwischenstadt* (English Language Ed.). Routledge.**

“Essentially, the book deals with the discrepancy between urban reality and prevailing ideologies about what a European city should be” (foreword).

*Zwischenstadt*: “signifies that today’s city is in an ‘in between’ state, a state between place and world, space and time, city and country” (px).

“For the sake of simplicity I call this *Zwischenstadt*, meaning the type of built-up area that is between the old historical city centres and the open countryside, between the place as a living space and the non-places of movement, between small local economic cycles and the dependency on the world market” (pxi).

Sieverts describes three “fundamental changes” that designers need to accept and consider in their projects:

“worldwide distribution of labour”;

“dissolution of the cultural binding forces of the city and the radical pluralisation of city culture”;

“the natural world has now been almost completely penetrated by artefacts and the contrast between city and nature has therefore dissolved”.

These forces and changes are creating a different urban environment . . . “which could destroy the European city but which—and this is the core thesis of this book—is also opening up the possibility of new design perspectives” (pxii).

**20. Spirn, A. W. (1985). *The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design* (1st ed.). Basic Books.**

“This is a book about nature in cities and what the city could be like if designed in concert with natural processes, rather than in ignorance of them or in outright opposition. It reviews comprehensive strategies for sweeping change most readily implemented in rapidly growing cities, as well as incremental solutions more appropriate to the gradual redesign of existing urban cores. Its concentration on the look and shape of the city, especially with open space within which buildings are set reflects the fact that its author is a landscape architect and environmental planner, not an economist or a student of governmental policy” (pxi-xii).

“The city must be recognized as part of nature and designed accordingly. The city, the suburbs, and the countryside must be viewed as a single, evolving system within nature, as must every individual park and building within that larger whole. The social value of nature must be recognized and its power harnessed, rather than resisted. Nature in the city must be cultivated, like a garden, rather than ignored or subdued” (p5).

**21. Steiner, F. (2002). *Human Ecology: Following Nature's Lead* (1st ed.). Island Press.**

Thesis: “My goals with this book are, first, to bring together the scholarship from the social and natural sciences as well as the environmental design arts on this topic, and, then to show how we might use that knowledge to envision our futures. . . .This book presents a theoretical perspective, which I believe has broad policy and practical implications. I seek to shed light on how people are engaged in ecological relationships” (16).

**22. Weller, R. (2006). *An Art of Instrumentality: Thinking Through Landscape Urbanism*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.**

Thesis: “To conflate art and instrumentality, two terms generally thought so distant as to not relate, I am purposefully returning to landscape architecture’s idealism and definition as a holistic enterprise, something that is at best both art and science” (p71). (Author discusses landscape architecture’s current, weak status.) Followed by: “Therefore, to arrive at an understanding of landscape urbanism and be able to review its design ramifications, this essay also attempts to chart what is meant by landscape in the city now” (p72).

**23. Weller, R. (2008). *Landscape (Sub)Urbanism in Theory and Practice*. *Landscape Journal*, 27(2), 247-267.**

Thesis: “It is time that landscape urbanist theorizing was scrutinized, clarified, and then tested in the working landscapes of suburban sprawl. This is the primary purpose of this two-part paper. . . . Part One examines landscape urbanist discourse in relation to the dominant suburban paradigms such as smart growth and new urbanism. It also shows how landscape urbanism has separated itself from the theory of critical regionalism and therefore from a certain landscape architectural romanticism. Part Two then discusses a master planning project for a suburban development for 40,000 people on the outskirts of Perth . . . .” (p248).

Definition: (From James Corner) but distilled into set of principles:

- Include within the purview of design all that is in the landscape— infrastructure and buildings, etc., and shuffle across scales so as to bridge the divides between landscape design, landscape ecology, and landscape planning
- Bring greater creativity to planning operations and greater rationality to design operations
- Conceptualize and then directly engage the city and its landscape as a hybridised, natural, chaotic ecology
- Emphasize the creativity and temporal agency of ecology in the formation of urban life as opposed to envisaging an ideal equilibrium between two entities formerly known as culture and nature
- Understand and manipulate the forces at work behind things and less with the resultant aesthetic qualities of things
- Interpret and then represent landscape systems so that these systems can in turn influence urban forms, processes, and patterns
- Prefer open-ended (indeterminate and catalytic) design strategies as opposed to formal compositions and master plans (p248)