

Food in planning: a seven year odyssey from off the planning table to on the planning table

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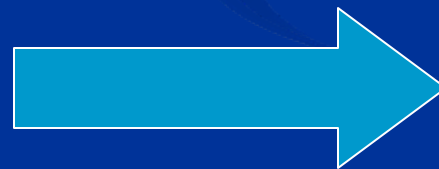
Symposium on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Design
and Planning of Buildings and Cities

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The Food System: A Puzzling Omission

- Planning claims to be comprehensive!
- Of basic necessities of life—air, water, food, and shelter--only food left out



Why?

Why the food system absent from the planner's table?

- It's driven primarily by the private market
- If it ain't broke, why fix it?



- Not our turf
- Food's grown on farms not in cities
- Planning agencies—no money to do food planning

Since 2000

putting food on the planning table

- Special journal issues on food planning
- Food planning track sessions at American Planning Association conferences
- A few food planning courses in graduate planning programs
- APA White paper on food planning approved
- APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning approved March 2007

The APA Policy Guide on Community/Regional Food Planning

2 overarching goals for planners

- ❖ Help build more self-reliant and sustainable community and regional food systems
- ❖ Suggest ways the industrial food system can help communities enhance economic vitality, public health, ecological sustainability, social equity, and cultural diversity

Six General Policies

Support food systems that:

1. Strengthen the local and regional *economy*
2. Improve the *health* of region's residents
3. Are *ecologically sustainable*
4. Are socially equitable and just
5. Sustain *traditional food cultures* of Native American and ethnic communities
6. Promote *comprehensive food planning* at the community and regional levels

Linking planners and designers: help small farmers in the region survive economically



Develop plans, development regulations, and economic incentive programs to provide accessible and well-serviced sites for public markets, farmers markets, small scale processing facilities, and distribution centers for food produced in the region

Fayetteville, Arkansas farmers market




Public Market

Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C.



**Increase access to healthy food,
especially for low income households**

**Encourage mixed-use neighborhood design
and redevelopment to include**

 **small and mid-sized grocery stores,
farmers markets, and community gardens
to allow residents to grow their own food**

Community Garden Next to Chicago Public Housing Project



Hortliza, a Youth Nutrition Garden project in SW Detroit



Buffalo, NY west side low-income neighborhood

- *Food for Growth: A Community Food System Plan for Buffalo's West Side*
- Assessed food security in the city's West Side neighborhood and analyzed opportunities and shortcomings in the local food system
- Strategic objectives : enhance local food production through land-use planning; promote food-based economic development;; increase transportation access to food; promote food-based youth development through food-based projects



Support foods produced in the region

Prepare comprehensive plans
and neighborhood plans
that recognize community gardens,
farm/garden stands,
and farmers markets



as *desirable civic uses* and provide sufficient
space, infrastructure, and inter-modal
transportation for such uses.

Madison, Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan Update on Community Gardens

- Strive to create one community garden site for every 2,000 households.
- Establish permanent community gardens on city-owned land or in city parks where possible.
- Extend leases of community gardens on city-owned property from one to five years.
- Consider making community gardens a permitted use in all residential zoning districts

WINTER GROWING BEDS



AQUAPONICS



Urban Bee Keeping/Honey Making



Food-growing projects on publicly owned lands

Support development of vegetable gardens,
edible landscaping, and related
infrastructure on publicly owned lands,
such as schoolyards, parks and greenways,
and tax-foreclosed properties

Somerton Tanks Farm, Philadelphia

- In 2004 the *Philadelphia Water Department* developed an urban farm as an example of how to use urban vacant land for agricultural production.
- Professional farmer hired using spin farm method to grow vegetables for market sale on a half acre plot in front of the water tanks.
- In 2006 the farm grossed \$68,000 in sales.



Community Vegetable Garden in Grant Park, Chicago Lakefront



Grant Park

Gallery 37-Chicago's Loop across from Daley's Plaza



Mixed residential/food growing developments

Provide incentives and special zoning provisions

 to integrate locally supported agriculture (e.g., community gardens, urban agriculture, small farms) into existing settlements and new areas of residential development

Troy Gardens, Madison, WI

- 31 acres on city's northside
- Urban agroecology project
 - + 5 acre 30 unit co-housing devt
 - + 5 acre CSA farm
 - + 6 acre community garden
 - + 5 acre prairie restoration
 - + children's garden
 - + edible landscape
- A Partnership
 - housing community land trust,
 - conservation community land trust,
 - friends of TG, city govt.,
 - university, community action coalition



Prairie Crossing



- Gray's Lake, Illinois
- Conservation design subdivision
- Housing, organic farm, and a CSA

Recycle food waste

- Assess the impact of food waste disposal on area landfills
- Explore possibilities for recycling food wastes through composting and bio-fuel development

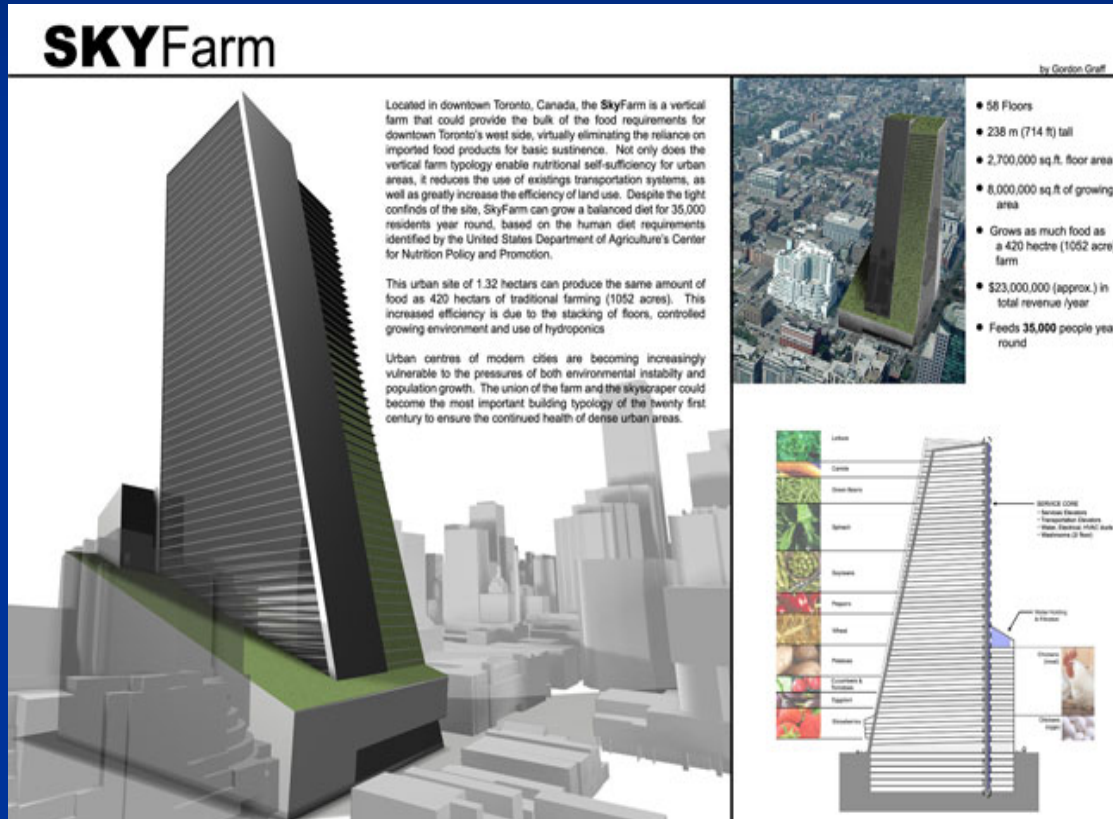






Chicago School Growing Beds On Asphalt

The Future: Vertical Farms?



- **SKYFARM (Toronto proposal)**
- **58 floors**
- **8 million ft. of growing space**
- **3.3 acre site**
- **Grows as much food as a 1,000 acre farm**
- **Feeds 35,000 people year round**

The Built Environment Shapers and Urban Food System Actors

- Planners and designers latecomers
- Urban food system actors eager for partnerships

A case in point

Growing Power collaborations

- top flight architectural firm prepared plans for GP carbon-free, green building
- planners on board of directors and serve as consultants
- support from Milwaukee and Chicago planners and designers on urban ag projects