



2013 International PUARL Conference

University of Oregon Portland

November 1-3, 2013

puarl.uoregon.edu

BATTLE FOR THE LIFE AND BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

After the successful completion of the first two International PUARL Conferences at the University of Oregon in Portland in the Fall of 2009 and 2011, we at the Portland Urban Architecture Research Laboratory, PUARL, are pleased to announce the next biennial conference titled "Battle for the Life and Beauty of The Earth." It will focus on problems and issues that we are facing in urban environments and buildings throughout the world today. This conference will take place in Portland, OR in the Fall of 2013, November 1-3, in cooperation with the Collaboration for Inclusive Urbanism, CIU.

Taken from the title of the new book by Christopher Alexander, HansJoachim Neis, and Maggie Moore Alexander, this year's conference will focus on the variety of ways in which urban environments and urban buildings, as well as their design and production, can support life, beauty, and wholeness, in addition to confronting the challenges implicit in attaining these goals. Life as a complex web of relationships, as an emergent process over time, and as a human feeling will be discussed in terms of complexity theory, pattern theory, ecology, sustainability, and landscape to address contemporary discourses and debates in environmental design, urban design, and urban architecture.

We are now accepting proposals and abstracts for consideration for this interdisciplinary and international conference. Papers must address one of the conference themes. The three main themes that will be emphasized in this conference are:

Inclusive Urbanism & the Ecosystems of Cities
Building Production for a More Beautiful & Resilient World
(Re)Generative and Emergent Processes

INCLUSIVE URBANISM & THE ECOSYSTEMS OF CITIES

Understanding of urban environments must begin with the understanding that they are most successful when they represent diverse and resilient ecosystems. The urban challenge of this age must include questions about social equity and urban inclusivity. How can we promote diversity and enfranchise underrepresented groups in the ecology and processes of cities? From

the Collaboration for Inclusive Urbanism, www.inclusiveurbanism.org, “The role of the city is to provide the contexts that invite people to realize their social, personal, and economic aspirations. This invitation should be available to all.”

BUILDING PRODUCTION FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL & RESILIENT WORLD

If cities themselves are the organic product of human need, what is the process by which the production of the physical structures of buildings, neighborhoods, parks, and urban landscapes support and augment urban life? What are the building processes that create neighborhoods, urban landscapes and buildings that are resilient and alive within themselves and that support those all-important intangibles of life and beauty – the life worth living. Papers in this category will address the question of how we produce life-supporting buildings, complexes, neighborhoods and communities for all people, especially the 93% of the world.

(RE)GENERATIVE AND EMERGENT PROCESSES

Strong ecosystems form a complex and complete web of relationships that emerge and change over time. Generative process explores the world as an emergent process at several levels of scale and with regard to different modes, and regenerative process does the same for recurring cycles of growth and re-growth. These modes include elements of but are not limited to physical, artistic, musical, and sociocultural as well as economic themes. We ask: how can generative and emergent processes as well as (re)generative (urban) design help to solve some of the current urban challenges that we face in our cities, neighborhoods, streets and parks? What are the methods, ideologies, and vocabularies that can support the creation of built environments that are complex, complete, diverse, resilient, and emergent over time?

Paper proposals are welcome that address these three main categories or have clear and direct connections to the conference themes. Paper proposals should be around 250 words and will be accepted until June 10, 2013. Please note in your submission which theme your proposal addresses. Send your proposal to puarl@uoregon.edu with the subject: 2013 PUARL Conference. Proposals will be reviewed and acceptance will be announced by June 24, 2013. Once accepted, full papers can be submitted to PUARL by September 9, 2013 for consideration for inclusion in a conference book to be published in the spring/summer of 2014. The conference fee for early-bird registration (deadline September 1, 2013) is \$300. Late registration after September 1 is \$350. Those presenting at the conference will be offered a discounted fee of \$250. Scholarships will be available for students and those with financial need. The publication will be sold separately once available. Please see puarl.uoregon.edu for news and updates.

About the Portland Urban Architecture Research Laboratory

The Portland Urban Architecture Research Laboratory, PUARL, seeks to promote wholeness and sustainability in the urban and architectural design process by conducting basic and applied research in addition to working on practical urban and architectural projects both within the region and internationally. PUARL provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and the discussion of research and professional practice for scholars, academics, and professionals both through their work and the organization of international conferences and symposia. Topics of interest include urban sustainability and wholeness, generative process, pattern languages, living architecture, complexity theory, emergence and unfolding, and the nature of order. PUARL is intent on continuing to advance these fields of investigation and influence the conduct of architecture and urban design worldwide by providing and encouraging an interdisciplinary approach to critical and relevant topics across fields and throughout the world. puarl.uoregon.edu

About the Collaborative for Inclusive Urbanism

The working premise of the Collaborative for Inclusive Urbanism, CIU, is that inclusive cities are both more affluent and more socially just. Inclusive cities are more affluent because they mobilize and enable a wider spectrum of people and talents than a city in which some of those human resources are marginalized. They are more socially just because by including the otherwise marginalized in the productive activities and opportunities of the city, inclusive cities offer better access to pathways for social and economic betterment. Inclusiveness works against gentrification, and its shadow: urban decay. It works against dividing the city into ghettos. It does not mean freezing growth or preventing redevelopment; rather, the opposite—encouraging more sustainable, prosperous, widespread growth and development by avoiding exclusivity, dislocation and the heavy, often ignored costs they carry. The role of the city is to provide the contexts that invite people to realize their social, personal, and economic aspirations. This invitation should be available to all. In the service of this goal, we carry out research and develop innovative ideas that lead to designs, policy recommendations, and experiments in practice. www.inclusiveurbanism.org