NUREC National Urban Research & Extension Center

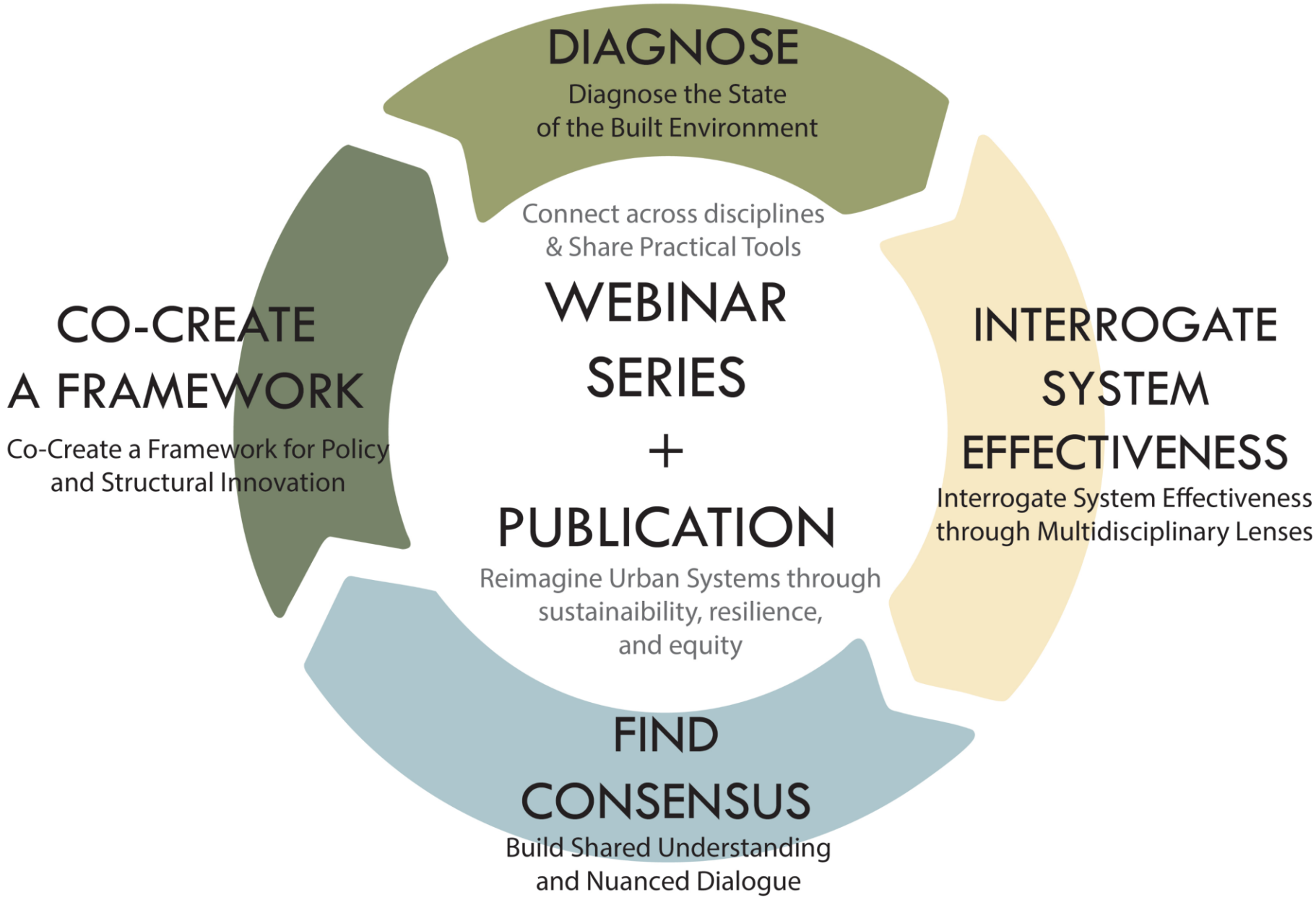
Webinar

Built Environment Rx:
Healing Urban Systems through Design, Policy, and Practice

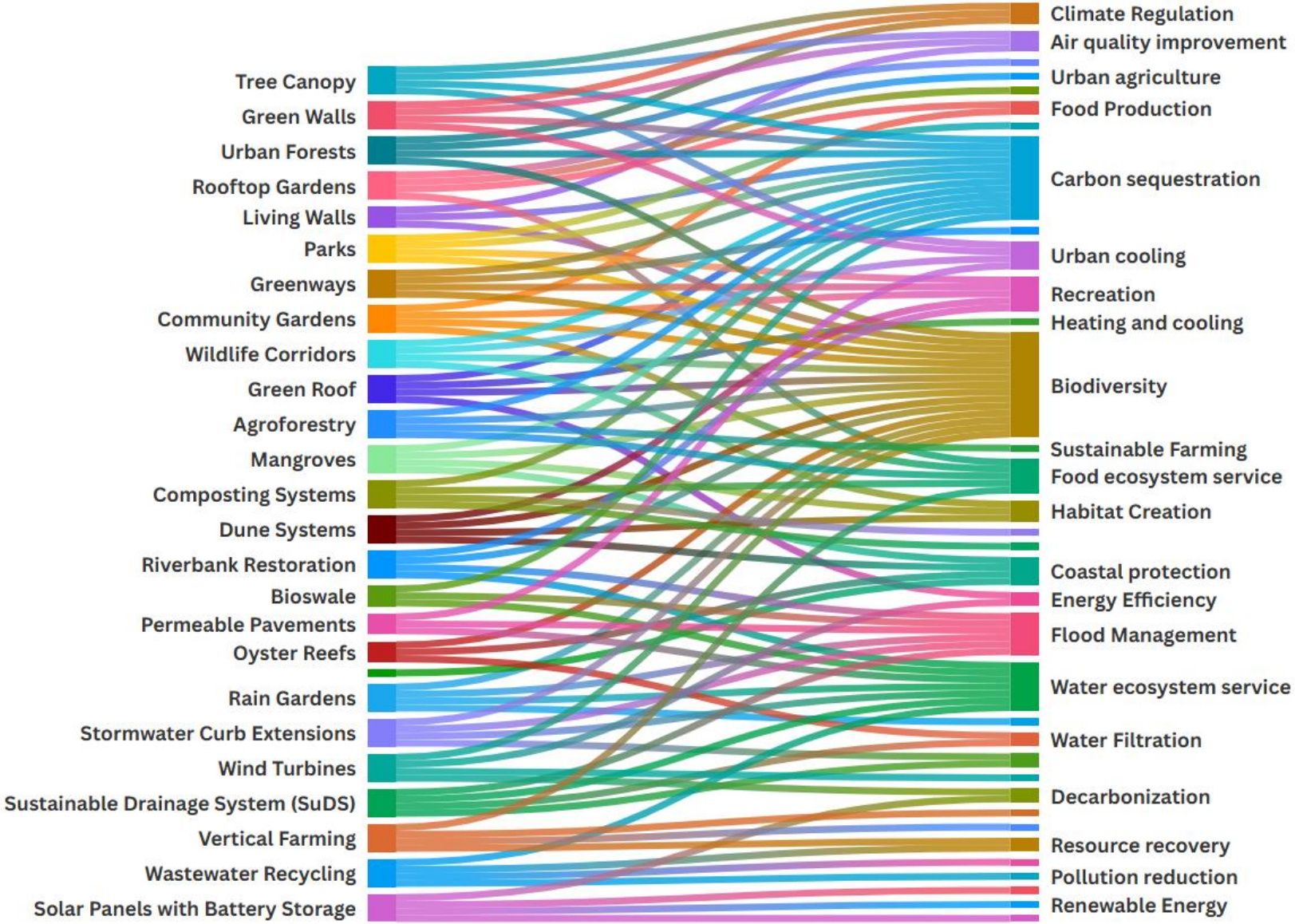
Webinar Series Kick-Off

Date :
15 July, 2025

Time :
10am - 11:30am PDT


DIAGNOSE
Diagnose the State of the Built Environment
INTERROGATE SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS
Interrogate System Effectiveness through Multidisciplinary Lenses
FIND CONSENSUS
Build Shared Understanding and Nuanced Dialogue
CO-CREATE A FRAMEWORK
Co-Create a Framework for Policy and Structural Innovation
Connect across disciplines & Share Practical Tools
WEBINAR SERIES
+
PUBLICATION
Reimagine Urban Systems through sustainaibility, resilience, and equity

Source: DGB Group



View Interactive Visualization

Webinar Dates
(2nd Tuesdays, 10–11:30 AM PT)

July 15 – Provisioning Services & Urban Resilience
August 12 – Regulating Services & Climate Adaptation
September 9 – Supporting Services & Biodiversity in Cities
October 14 – Cultural Services & Community Well-being
November 11 – Tools, Metrics, & Research in Practice

Register:

AGENDA

July 15, 10:00 - 11:30 am PDT (1:00 - 2:30 pm EDT)

1. ***Introduction to Series and Lecturers*****:** 10:00 - 10:15 (PDT)
2. ***Lecture***: Sustainable Urban Design Framework: Professor Nico Larco: 10:15 - 10:45
3. ***Lecture:*** Food in the Built Environment: Professor Matt Potteiger: 10:45 - 11:15
4. ***Q&A:*** 11:15 - 11:25
5. ***Closing and Next Steps***: 11:25 - 11:30

SURVEY Link: https://arcg.is/18yf0j2

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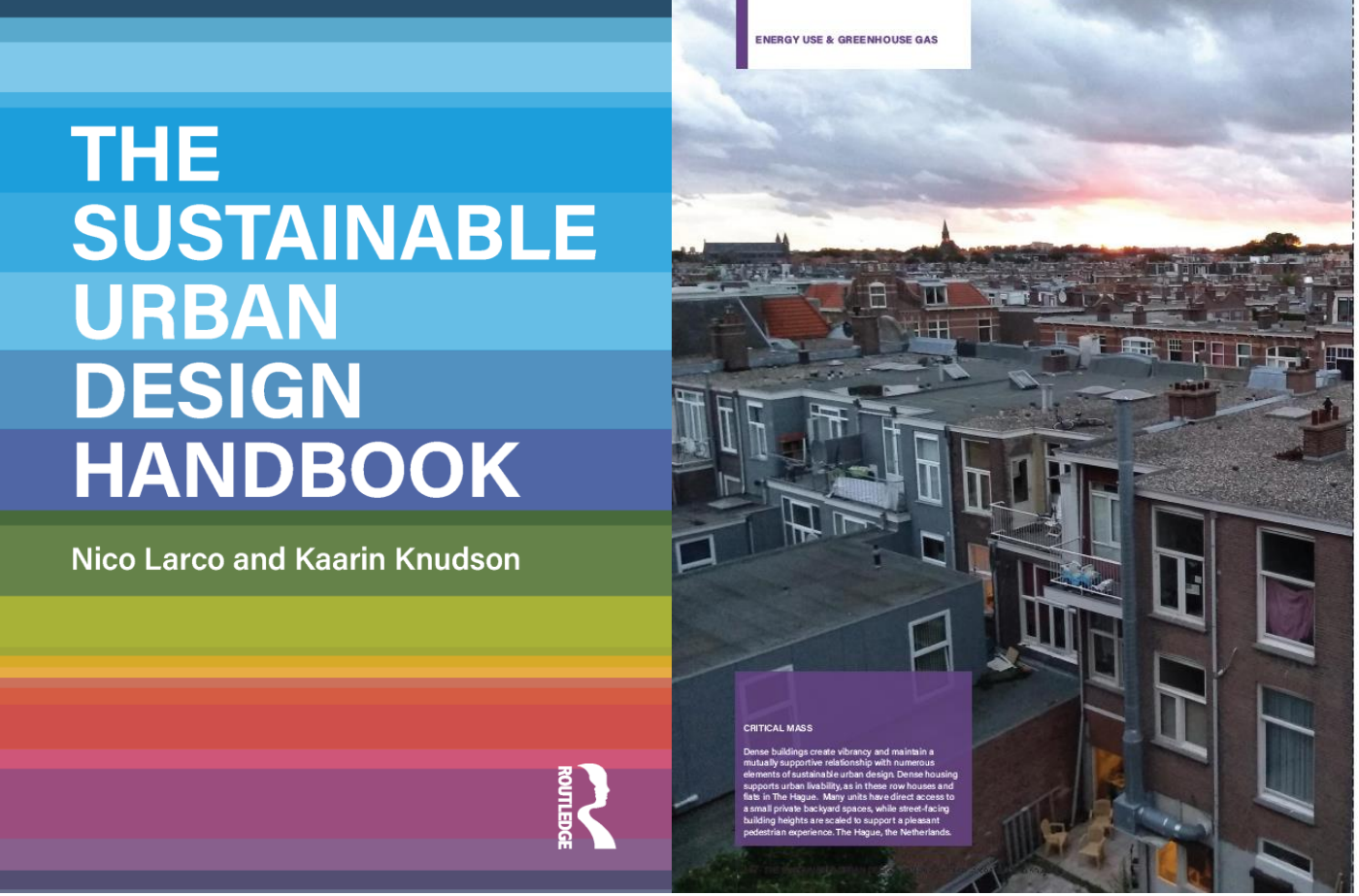
Built Environment Rx

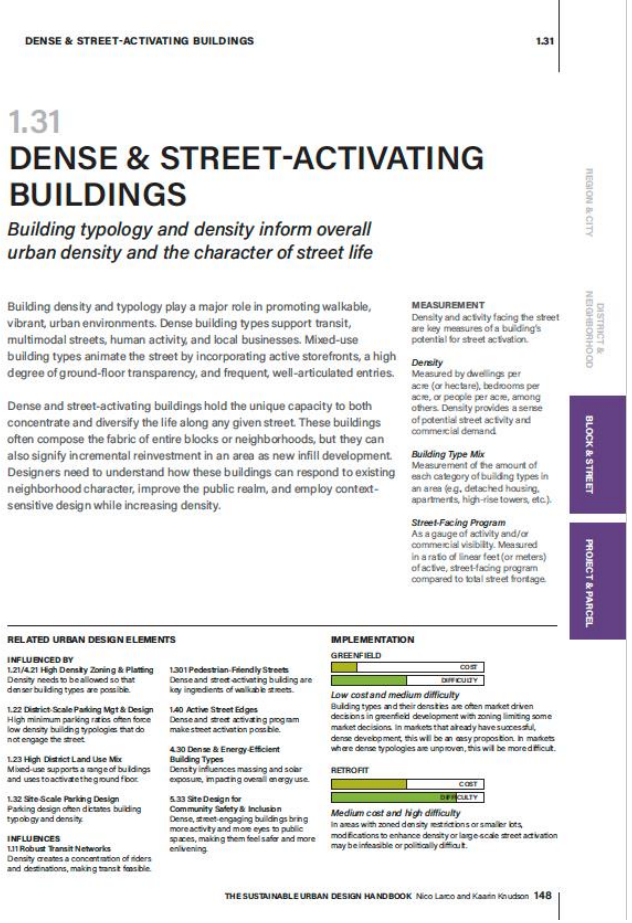
Provisioning Services and Urban Resilience

Guest Lecturer: Prof Nico Larco

Architecture Professor and Director of Urbanism Next Center

University of Oregon





LINK HERE

Built Environment Rx

Provisioning Services and Urban Resilience

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CRITICAL MASS

Dense buildings create vibrancy and maintain a mutually supportive relationship with numerous elements of sustainable urban design. Dense housing supports urban livability, as in these row houses and flats in The Hague. Many units have direct access to a small private backyard spaces, while street-facing building heights are scaled to support a pleasant pedestrian experience. The Hague, the Netherlands.

1.31
DENSE & STREET-ACTIVATING BUILDINGS

Building typology and density inform overall urban density and the character of street life

Building density and typology play a major role in promoting walkable, vibrant, urban environments. Dense building types support transit, multimodal streets, human activity, and local businesses. Mixed-use building types animate the street by incorporating active storefronts, a high degree of ground-floor transparency, and frequent, well-articulated entries.

Dense and street-activating buildings hold the unique capacity to both concentrate and diversify the life along any given street. These buildings often compose the fabric of entire blocks or neighborhoods, but they can also signify incremental reinvestment in an area as new infill development. Designers need to understand how these buildings can respond to existing neighborhood character, improve the public realm, and employ context-sensitive design while increasing density.

MEASUREMENT

Density and activity facing the street are key measures of a building's potential for street activation.

Density
Measured by dwellings per acre (or hectare), bedrooms per acre, or people per acre, among others. Density provides a sense of potential street activity and commercial demand.

Building Type Mix
Measurement of the amount of each category of building types in an area (e.g., detached housing, apartments, high-rise towers, etc.).

Street-Facing Program
As a gauge of activity and/or commercial visibility. Measured in a ratio of linear feet (or meters) of active, street-facing program compared to total street frontage.

RELATED URBAN DESIGN ELEMENTS

INFLUENCED BY

1.21/4.21 High Density Zoning & Platting
Density needs to be allowed so that denser building types are possible.

1.22 District-Scale Parking Mgt & Design
High minimum parking ratios often force low density building typologies that do not engage the street.

1.23 High District Land Use Mix
Mixed-use supports a range of buildings and uses to activate the ground floor.

1.32 Site-Scale Parking Design
Parking design often dictates building typology and density.

INFLUENCES

1.11 Robust Transit Networks
Density creates a concentration of riders and destinations, making transit feasible.

1.301 Pedestrian-Friendly Streets
Dense and street-activating building are key ingredients of walkable streets.

1.40 Active Street Edges
Dense and street activating program make street activation possible.

4.30 Dense & Energy-Efficient Building Types
Density influences massing and solar exposure, impacting overall energy use.

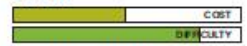
5.33 Site Design for Community Safety & Inclusion
Dense, street-engaging buildings bring more activity and more eyes to public spaces, making them feel safer and more enlivening.

IMPLEMENTATION

GREENFIELD

Low cost and medium difficulty
Building types and their densities are often market driven decisions in greenfield development with zoning limiting some market decisions. In markets that already have successful, dense development, this will be an easy proposition. In markets where dense typologies are unproven, this will be more difficult.

RETROFIT



Medium cost and high difficulty
In areas with zoned density restrictions or smaller lots, modifications to enhance density or large-scale street activation may be infeasible or politically difficult.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

TOPIC AREAS IN URBAN DESIGN Organized by Scale	REGION & CITY	DISTRICT & NEIGHBORHOOD	BLOCK & STREET	PROJECT & PARCEL
1 Energy Use & Greenhouse Gas *(Transportation & Land Use)*	**1.10** Compact Development *(For Density & Proximity)* **1.11** Robust Transit Networks **1.12** Robust Bicycle Networks **1.13** Balanced Vehicular Networks **1.14** Regional Land Use Mix	**1.20** Robust Pedestrian Networks **1.201** Small & Defined Blocks **1.202** Street Network Connectivity **1.21** High-Density Zoning & Platting **1.22** District-Scale Parking Mgt & Design **1.23** High District Land Use Mix	**1.30** Multimodal Street Design **1.301** Pedestrian-Friendly Streets **1.302** Bicycle-Friendly Streets **1.303** Transit-Friendly Streets **1.304** Limiting Motor Vehicle Impact **1.31** Dense & Street-Activating Bldgs **1.32** Site-Scale Parking Design	**1.40** Active Street Edges **1.41** High Internal Connectivity 1.31 Dense & Street-Activating Buildings 1.32 Site-Scale Parking Design
2 Water	**2.10** Compact Development *(For Limited Impact on Natural Systems)* **2.11** Avoid Flood Prone Areas	**2.20** Robust Stormwater Networks **2.21** Daylight & Restore Waterways	**2.30** High Surface Permeability **2.31** Robust Urban Forest **2.32** Green Stormwater Infrastructure	**2.40** Rainwater Capture & Reuse 2.30 High Surface Permeability 2.31 Robust Urban Forest 2.32 Green Stormwater Infrastructure
3 Ecology & Habitat	**3.10** Compact Development *(For Limited Impact on Natural Systems)* **3.11** Avoid Ecologically Sensitive Areas **3.12** Robust Ecological Networks	**3.20** Ecological Corridors & Patches **3.21** Daylight & Restore Waterways 3.11 Avoid Ecologically Sensitive Areas	**3.30** High Surface Permeability **3.31** Robust Urban Forest **3.32** Microhabitat Creation **3.321** High Vertical Complexity **3.322** Native Vegetation **3.33** Wildlife Crossings **3.34** Robust Ecological Area Buffers **3.35** Limited Light Pollution	3.30 High Surface Permeability 3.31 Robust Urban Forest 3.32 Microhabitat Creation 3.321 High Vertical Complexity 3.322 Native Vegetation 3.33 Wildlife Crossings 3.34 Robust Ecological Area Buffers 3.35 Limited Light Pollution
4 Energy Use & Production *(Non-Transportation)*	**4.10** Compact Development *(For Limited Embodied Energy in Infrastructure)*	**4.20** Street & Block Orientation **4.21** High-Density Zoning & Platting	**4.30** Dense & Energy-Efficient Building Types **4.31** Urban Microclimates **4.311** Cool & Green Surfaces **4.312** Robust Urban Forest **4.313** Street Ht-to-Width Ratio	**4.40** Infill Development 4.30 Dense & Energy-Efficient Building Types
5 Equity & Health	+ See Energy Use & Greenhouse Gas (1.10 - 1.41): To Maximize Access, Affordability, Activity, Safety, and Social Mobility **5.10** Compact Development *(For Proximity, Access & Reduced Infrastructure Cost)* **5.11** Equitable Distribution of Uses & Services	**5.20** Balanced Block Size **5.21** High-Density Zoning & Platting **5.22** Limited Location of Point Source Pollution **5.23** Mix of Housing Unit Types 5.11 Equitable Distribution of Uses & Services	**5.30** Active & Attractive Open Space **5.31** Robust Urban Forest **5.32** Affordable Housing Typologies **5.33** Site Design For Community Safety & Inclusion 5.23 Mix of Housing Unit Types	**5.40** Infill Development 5.23 Mix of Housing Unit Types 5.30 Active & Attractive Open Space 5.32 Affordable Housing Typologies 5.33 Site Design For Community Safety & Inclusion

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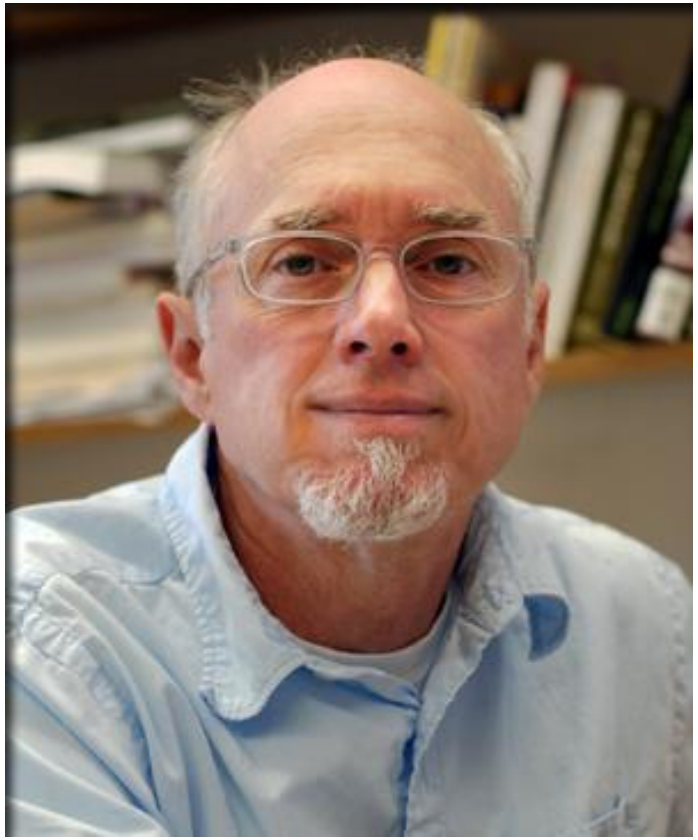

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Provisioning Services and Urban Resilience

Guest Lecturer: Prof Matthew Potteiger

Professor of Landscape Architecture

State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry

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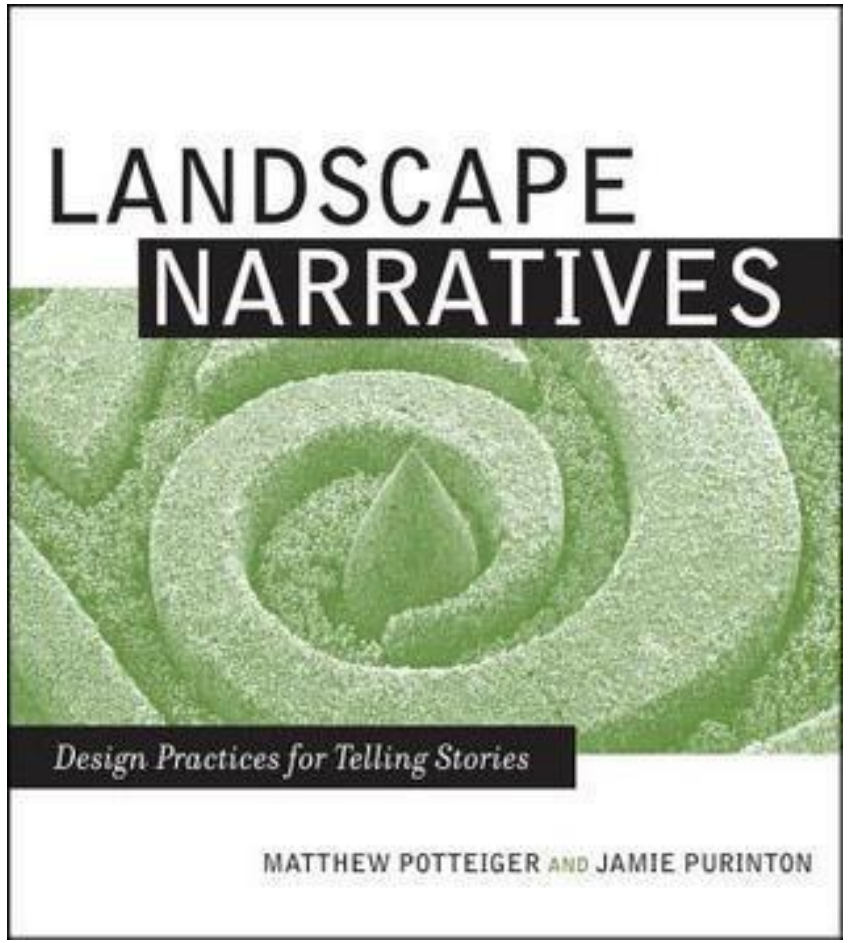

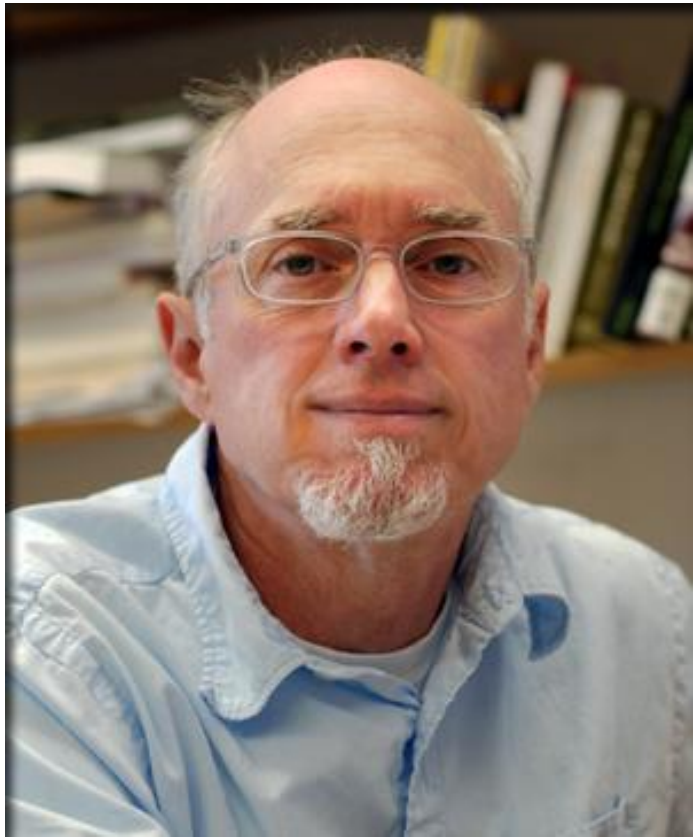

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