



The Architecture of Agriculture: planting the urban landscape

The intent of this studio is to engage the integration of infrastructural landscape systems with the geometry of civic space. Our goal is to address the potential of how an ensemble of cultivated gardens and parks can infect a landscape with an ensemble of intentions which invigorate, stimulate, inspire and evoke a sense of beauty, health and spiritual well being.

Our region is experiencing a renaissance in the culinary disciplines. Mario Batali, James Beard, Julia Child and a host of former and present foodies have lauded the Pacific Northwest, Oregon and particularly Eugene as the epicenter of the edible landscape genre. With the intensified focus on urban agriculture we are now forming ensembles of market driven patterns that greatly enhance the possibility of interceding in our civic landscape structure in behalf of a renewed opportunity in the creation of a truly unique green city.

Precedents abound in the grape arbors shrouding the ancient 3000 year old stone roof terraces of Pequinn, rice terraces dancing through the gridded hierarchy of Kyoto's imperial city, the Chahar Bagh ordering the sacred precincts of Isfahan, the cascading potato/tomato terraces of Cuzco and the vineyards in downtown Stuttgart. These urban gardens all speak the ordered/designed language of cultivation.

Our studio this term is about designing vegetable/herb/orchard landscapes for City living. Our sites are the parking lots of downtown Eugene...especially those derelict asphalt wastelands immediately opposite our most sacred civic institutions i.e. city hall, county offices and Federal courthouse.