

“WATER IN THE MIDST”

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For the past half-century or so American cities have seen the remarkable transformation of their waterfronts, mostly obsolete industrial sites, into vibrant mixed-use developments. Baltimore's Inner Harbor, planned by the author's firm, was the first such transformation and remains to this day a model for waterfront redevelopment. The Baltimores of the world, however, are fundamentally 'edge' waterfronts: that is, developments that are at the line between the urban realm and a water bodies that expand outward into bays and, ultimately, the ocean.

By contrast, many cities today have turned their attention to the non-edge condition of urban waters: canals, lakes, stream corridors, aquifer recharge areas and even micro filtration gardens-all in the name of ecological, social and economic health, i.e. sustainability. This is a vast movement that is radically affecting the planning and design of cities, one that is also placing the field of landscape urbanism at the center of the effort.

This presentation will discuss the emergence of landscape urbanism as a distinctive city-planning and design discipline. It will also showcase state-of-the-art projects involving urban waters, through initiatives for rivers (Des Moines, Washington, DC), to lakes (Dallas and Phoenix), canals (Indianapolis, Richmond, San Diego) and watersheds (Philadelphia, Trenton). The author will conclude with a presentation of the latest plans for the reconstruction of New Orleans, an effort for which the author's firm is the lead planner, and which is centrally focused on the city's non-edge condition of urban waters.