Multiscale approach to biodiversity conservation: Chicago as a case study

Scales of Change

Book of abstracts

Commemorating 50 years of
Landscape Architecture study programme
at University of Ljubljana

University of Ljubljana

ECLAS
EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS

ECLAS 2022 --- University of Ljubljana
conference.eclas.org
12---14-09-2022

Scales of Change

ECLAS Conference 2022
conference.eclas.org
12---14-09-2022

Organised by the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty, the Department of Landscape Architecture **on behalf of** ECLAS European Council of Landscape Architecture

Book of abstracts was edited by Tadej Bevk and designed by Manca Krošelj **published by** the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty

Book of abstract is available at
conference.eclas.org

Electronic version
Ljubljana, 2022

The cataloguing-in-publication data (CIP) prepared by the National and University Library of Slovenia
COBISS.SI-ID 119137539
ISBN 978-961-6379-65-6 (PDF)

University of Ljubljana
Biotechnical faculty

ECLAS
EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS

Program committee
Dr. Tadej Bevk
Prof. Dr. Davorin Gazvoda
Prof. Dr. Mojca Golobič
David Klepej
Manca Krošelj
Prof. Dr. Ana Kučan
Assist. Prof. Dr. Nadja Penko Seidl
Dr. Tomaž Pipan
Nina Stubičar

Session chairs
Track 1: Prof. Em. Richard Stiles
and Prof. Dr. Mojca Golobič

Track 2: Prof. Dr. Henrik Schultz
and Dr. Tadej Bevk

Track 3: Prof. Dr. Udo Weilacher
and Assist. Prof. Dr. Nadja Penko Seidl

Track 4: Jeroen de Vries
and Prof. Dr. Davorin Gazvoda

Track 5: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tijana Dabović
and Dr. Tomaž Pipan

Reviewers
Kamila Adamczyk-Mucha
Prof. Dr. Susann Ahn
Ms. Tal Alon-Mozes
Dr. Tadej Bevk
Inge Bobbink
Dr. Ir. Marlies Brinkhuijsen
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tijana Dabović
Dr. Ellen Fetzer
Dr. Karen Foley
Assoc. Prof. Juanjo Galan Vivas
Dr. Lei Gao
Prof. Dr. Davorin Gazvoda
Prof. Dr. Mojca Golobič
Prof. Dr. Doris Gstach
Dr. Katrin Hagen
Prof. Dr. Stefanie Hennecke
Mr. Robert Holden
Dr. Hannah Hopewell
Dr. Daniel Jauslin
Dr. Anders Larsson
Assist. Prof. Dr. Naja Marot
Dr. Samaneh Nickayin
Assist. Prof. Dr. Nadja Penko Seidl
Dr. Tomaž Pipan
Prof. Dr. Martin Prominski
Bianca Maria Rinaldi
Dr. Amber Roberts
Doc. Dr. Ing. Alena Salasova
Prof. Dr. Henrik Schultz
Prof. Em. Richard Stiles
Dr. Joanna Storie
Dr. Ir. MA Rudi Van Etteger
Kristine Kristine Vugule
Ir. Jeroen de Vries
Prof. Dr. Udo Weilacher
Prof. Carola Wingren

Content

ID 20: Multiscale approach to biodiversity conservation: Chicago as a case study

Manuela Ronci

Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy. Università degli Studi di Torino, Torino, Italy

Biodiversity loss is a major global concern, strictly connected to heterogeneous phenomena occurring at various spatial and temporal levels. A multiscale approach to biodiversity conservation is therefore crucial to better understand and manage ecological dynamics and processes. Scholars agree that a joint effort of decision-makers, planners, and designers is necessary to successfully integrate the conservation of biological diversity into sustainable development strategies from the national to the local scale.

Among the many cities that are worldwide adopting biodiversity-aimed policies and plans, Chicago stands for its forward-looking approach to environmental conservation, whose antecedents can be found at the turn of the 20th century, when the *Forest Preserves of Cook County* were established in the Chicago metropolitan region. The institution of this system of protected sites became the framework for the foundation of the regional alliance *Chicago Wilderness* in 1996, that aimed at bringing together organisations, policy-makers, landowners, and citizens to implement the quality of delicate ecosystems and conservation areas. In 1999 the alliance produced an innovative document for that time: the *Biodiversity Recovery Plan* (BRP) for the greater Chicago region. It was followed in 2004 by its spatial representation, the *Green Infrastructure Vision*, that identified priority areas to be protected, restored, and connected. In order to implement the BRP regional goals at the urban level, in 2006 the City of Chicago developed its first *Nature and Wildlife plan* (updated in 2011) to preserve and restore habitats within the city.

Proposing the experience of Chicago as a best practice, the paper will address the complex system of tools adopted to tackle the loss of biological diversity from regional to municipal level. Through the analysis of a selection of contemporary landscape architecture projects implemented in Chicago, the paper will highlight the productive and mutual influence of landscape planning and design in biodiversity conservation.