



Canada Green Building Council - Québec

CALL FOR SPEAKERS 28-10-2016

**SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND CITIES OF TOMORROW
2017 COLLOQUIUM**

Utopias Put to the Test

This call solicits candidacies for the presentation of 30 to 60 minute presentations, as well as for the participation to panels, as part of the third edition of the Sustainable Urban Planning and Cities of Tomorrow colloquium, organized by the CaGBC - Qc.

This event will take place in Montreal on January 30, 2017. Several hundred professionals and actors from different spheres of sustainable planning and building are expected.

Objectives

The Canada Green Building Council - Quebec (CaGBC - Qc) brings together the various stakeholders of sustainable building, driven by the same passion for a better built environment. One of its missions is to share up-to-date knowledge and to act as a best practice dissemination platform, so as to enable building specialists to draw inspiration and allow industry leaders to present the latest innovations.

The mission of the CaGBC-Qc is to transform the built environment to create sustainable buildings and communities that offer healthy living and working spaces for all. The Council also fosters the participation of stakeholders in industry and in the government by helping organizations that stimulate sustainable construction and development in Quebec.

CaGBC - Qc. colloquiums are created to offer professionals and administrators content from here and abroad that will give them knowledge, practical tools and inspiration to feed the green building movement of Quebec. The other annual colloquiums are Sustainable Architecture, Sustainable Real Estate and Sustainable Building Materials

Context:

We may not live in Thomas More's 16th Century, yet utopian ideals are still relevant today. In fact, contemporary urban utopias are responses to the social, environmental and economic issues of our time.

The purpose of this conference is not to oppose utopian perfection to concrete realities, but to bring them together and demonstrate how each, in different ways, fuels the other to catalyze change and demonstrate the benefits of engaging stakeholders in building the city of tomorrow.

Projects and initiatives that demonstrate this principle are particularly coveted.

Through this call for speakers, CaGBC - Quebec aims to receive proposals related to the following subtopics:

1. Toward the ZERO-carbon city
2. Toward the edible city
3. Toward universal mobility and the democratization of transportation
4. Toward inclusive and fair communities

Subtopics:

1 - Toward the ZERO-Carbon City

While we wait for the end of fossil fuels

Faced with the impacts of climate change and natural resource depletion, cities and regions are seeking cleaner energy sources. Their goal is to shake their fossil fuel dependence and to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to...zero! Pipe dream or realistic?

This new aspiration has received plenty of attention for the past several years. Model cities have been conceived, government policies have been put in place and challenges have been launched. Several cities are committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. In Quebec, the *Office de consultation publique de Montréal*, responsible for public consultations on projects and policies of citywide interest, even consulted citizens and professionals over the past year to establish goals and means to reduce fossil fuel dependence.

Today, we must address these ambitions and proposed methods with a critical eye. Is the carbon neutral city attainable? How can North American cities adapt to achieve carbon neutrality for 2030? What tools are at our disposal to confront this challenge? What urban or regional initiatives can serve as inspiration in this respect?

2 - Toward the Edible City

While we wait for cities to feed themselves

Environmental and ecological questions are at the heart of the most recent urban planning utopias, and the efforts taken to attempt to achieve them are increasingly visible. We begin to imagine urban environments in which the city's intensity, activity

and infrastructure coexist in perfect harmony with omnipresent vegetation and civilized wildlife.

In the past, squares were spread parsimoniously throughout the city, green space was more discrete and environmental considerations were more associated with hygiene. Today, urban greening and efforts to bring nature into the city are multiple: rainwater gardens, sheep mowing grass in parks, green roofs, biodiversity plans, etc. In addition to the ecological and aesthetic principles that motivate them, these initiatives now have the goal of feeding us: edible plants at street corners, guerilla gardening, front-yard gardens, commercial agriculture on large roofs, urban chickens, etc.

Many cities and institutions have established strong communication campaigns promoting their greening initiatives under the umbrella of urban agriculture. The impact of these campaigns on the image of certain neighbourhoods or cities is undeniable and citizen education and awareness has grown.

That being said, beyond the ambitions and intentions of urban agriculture, short channels and edible central neighbourhoods, what is the real reach of these initiatives? Can their impact and benefits be measured? Can cities be self-sufficient from a nutritional standpoint? Are they seeking to liberate themselves from ties to their agricultural hinterland? Aside from mitigating urban heat islands, to what extent do urban agriculture and other initiatives have the power to transform cities, architecture, urban planning and landscapes?

3 – Toward the Democratization of Transportation and Universal Mobility ***While we wait for teleportation***

We all at some point dream of getting from point A to point B in a split second. When we address the topic of sustainable mobility today, two major movements come to mind, namely technological advances in individual and collective modes of transportation and efforts to promote active transportation.

Innovations in car sharing and the advent of autonomous vehicles are perceived by some as means to increase urban mobility in auto-dependent areas and reduce the space devoted to cars in cities. In this vein, they could offer a temporary solution in the transition toward a more compact urban form, or a permanent solution to the shortcomings of public transportation in low-density areas. However, questions arise as to whether these innovations can foster a more sustainable urban environment or simply reinforce the status quo of urban sprawl.

On the other hand, efforts devoted to developing active transportation have been more associated with the vision of a car-free city. In North America, however, these interventions tend to be reserved for dense inner-city neighbourhoods and traditional village cores. Therefore, much work remains to be done to retrofit the urban fabric to reduce car dependence.

Are these two movements in opposition or can they be complementary in the effort toward universal mobility and sustainable cities? Should the strides taken toward next-generation vehicles on one hand and car-free cities on the other make us

question the pertinence of investing in public transportation in low-density areas? What are the consequences of these two movements on urban form? What does each bring to the discourse on sustainable urban planning and mobility?

4 – Toward Inclusive and Fair Communities

While we wait for Utopia

Social diversity, inclusive urban design, public engagement and participatory governance are at the heart of current political aspirations across all levels of government, and all agree on the importance of the social dimension of urban planning and development projects in our cities and regions. The idea of a living environment created by and for citizens regardless of their socioeconomic status, their origin, their gender, their age, etc., elicits visions of a self-managing utopia in which all citizens benefit from the right to the city and to the region.

Preoccupations with respect to fostering socially equitable environments have led to several ambitious and promising initiatives. Whether it is access to the decision-making process, Big Data, the multiplication of participatory design exercises, social housing targets, investments in universal accessibility, or the design of safe public spaces, one can deduce that our ideal urban future will involve bringing citizens into the heart of the planning process.

Although many of these preoccupations occupy an important place in the planning of our cities, what is the current state of inclusivity, social diversity and equity in our communities? Do we now live in inclusive, socially equitable environments thanks to new tools and public participation practices? What impact do these new processes have on the planning of our living environments? Whether we consider women, children, the homeless, refugees or persons with disabilities, how can we imagine our future cities and regions as places where the entire population feels comfortable and engaged in the planning process? How can urban design respond to these efforts toward inclusivity and equality in the city?

Proposal form and content

An Interested party for a speaker or panelist role may present a short and concise proposal in which it provides the following information:

1. The sub-theme point for which it proposes its candidacy;
2. An updated resume of the speaker(s), including professional and lecturing experiences, as well as full contact details;
3. A short biography (100 to 150 words)
4. A descriptive and engaging presentation title (which could be used for the program);
5. A 250 to 500 word summary of the presentation;

6. The structure of the proposed presentation.

If the case arises, it would be appreciated to have prior information with respect to disclosure limitations.

The subject will provide, through exemplary projects or pertinence of tools, an important contribution to the field of planning and sustainable development, and in particular to one or more of the sub-themes listed above .

If the the proposed subject and content addresses the general theme without touching one of the sub-themes, the candidate will have to produce arguments to justify the addition of a sub-theme.

In the case of presentations with visual support, CaGBC - QC transmit a standardized proforma PowerPoint or Prezi..

Video presentations are not permitted unless they are approved beforehand.

The speakers will be selected based on:

1. The relevance and originality of the subject in relation to the corresponding theme and sub-theme;
2. The speakers professional experience and accomplishments;
3. The speakers presentation experience (conferences and/or education).

The presenters will not be paid.

Presentations cannot be a form of advertising for a product or a service.

The presentations will be available on the conference web page after the event.

The presentations may be filmed or otherwise recorded. The CaGBC - Qc will retain a right to make these recordings available.

The final presentations will be supplied to the organizers no later than January 23, 2017, seven days before the symposium.

Role of the CaGBC - Qc

The CaGBC - Qc is committed to supporting the selected speakers so as to help adapt their presentations to the colloquium and ensure the objectives of the event are reached and a narrative be respected. The selected candidates will have the necessary time to prepare and adapt content to the expected format. The presentations may be added to the training catalog CaGBC - Qc and be offered in the future, in accordance with an agreement signed between both parties.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Proposals must be submitted no later than Friday, **November 18, 2016** to Paul-Antoine Troxler, Director, Education and Research: pa.troxler@batimentdurable.ca

Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of subject relevance (5 points), the professional experience of the speakers (3 points), as well as their experience and oratorical and/or teaching skills (2 points).

Successful applicants will be contacted between November 22 and 25, 2016.

Information

For more information, please contact Paul-Antoine Troxler, Director, Education & Research, CaGBC - Qc: pa.troxler@batimentdurable.ca, 514-563-2001, ext. 221