Isabelle Anguelovski holds a PhD in urban planning from MIT. She studies how environmental injustice is materialized and contested, with a focus on four research areas: 1) The politics of the green city as a growing global planning orthodoxy; 2) The social and racial manifestations and impacts of green gentrification for historically marginalized residents; 3) Urban planning for health and wellbeing, with a focus on health equity and justice; and 4) Justice and inclusivity in climate adaptation planning.

With fast-growing urban greening interventions designed to address socio-environmental and health challenges and harness widespread benefits for citizens, industries, and investors, cities are deploying a new urban green brand articulated around the mission that green is a win-win solution for a variety of urban challenges. However, many of these initiatives are accelerating or creating green gentrification through financial, physical, socio-cultural, and esthetic dynamics displacing historically marginalized groups. Through research in North America and Europe, this talk will examine the scope and magnitude of these green inequalities and contrast them with equity-centered alternatives that can support the creation of a green city for all. I argue that, in order to address green and racialized privilege, cities must articulate both anti-displacement and inclusive green interventions before new greening is even announced and publicized.

Remote Lecture!

Lecture will be broadcasted in DB 170 with light refreshments.

Watch the Recording.
Michael Grove
FASLA, PLA

Michael is the Chair of Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Ecology and sits on Sasaki’s Board of Directors. Leading much of the firm’s international work, he offers unique insight into the environmental and social impacts of urbanization around the world. Michael is a fierce advocate for the vital role that landscape architects play in shaping contemporary cities.

Michael is a graduate of Cornell University with a degree in landscape architecture and a focus on planning and urban design. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, sits on the Placemaking council of the Urban Land Institute, and currently serves as President-Elect of the Landscape Architecture Foundation. His work has been recognized with numerous national and international awards, and he is a frequent lecturer at conferences and universities around the world.

For much of its first century as a defined profession, landscape architecture has suffered from a predominantly parochial viewpoint. While a hyper-local perspective is critical, it is equally as important to recognize that societal issues are interrelated, interdependent, and international. From climate change and biodiversity loss to inequity and environmental justice, these challenges speak to our shared humanity and are global in scale - just as we should be as a profession. Working globally isn’t glamorous, it’s necessary.

Light food and beverage included.

Watch the Recording.
Julia Freedgood

Julia is a prominent national expert in farmland protection, land tenure and access, agricultural viability, and food system planning. As Senior Fellow and Senior Program Advisor at American Farmland Trust, she focuses on the planning and policy framework required to support the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers, and to advance equitable and just regional food systems to increase food security and combat climate change.

She has served on USDA’s Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Review Board and USDA-Secretary Vilsack’s Land Tenure Advisory Committee. She holds a M.A. in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy from Tufts University.

Planning for Resilient Food Systems from Soil to Soil

Governments across the U.S. and Canada have made strides in their food systems planning efforts, with many recognizing within the past decade that the issue of food insecurity is just as important as maintaining other public infrastructure like roads and water systems. In this lecture, Julia will be covering topics surrounding resilient food production and planning with a foundation of soil sciences and farming planning strategies. Julia will be analyzing how local government policies and plans are being developed to strengthen food systems.

Light food and beverage included.

Watch the Recording.
Kate Kennen is founder of Offshoots, Inc, (www.offshootsinc.com) a Boston, MA landscape architecture and horticultural installation practice and full-time professor at Northeastern University. Her book co-authored with Niall Kirkwood, PHYTO: Principles and Resources for Site Remediation and Landscape Design, translates the science of phytoremediation into an easy-to-understand guide for design professionals.

The work at Offshoots aims to alleviate plantings of their traditional maintenance regimes (fertilizer, water, & time) alternatively creating productive landscapes that utilize the power of plants to mitigate pollution (through phytoremediation) and connect regional ecologies. Kate will share a range of work from residential to the infrastructural, where small projects have been used as a testing ground to scale up performative planting concepts.

Light food and beverage included.

Watch the Recording.
María Bellalta is dean and faculty, School of Landscape Architecture, Boston Architectural College. She directs the Master and Bachelor landscape architecture programs; teaches design theory and practice, and advanced, interdisciplinary, and international studios through cross-contextual/cultural experiences. María engages in academic collaborations with Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia, and Centro Metropolitano de Arquitectura Sustentable in Mexico City, among other academic institutions in Latin America. She is partnered with BuroVerde Arquitectura, Mexico City, collaborating on academic studies and public projects, forging her international expertise across geographies. María is Trustee for the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, ASLA Delegate to the International Federation of Landscape Architects – Americas Region (North America/Canada, Central, and South America, and serves on the President's Council for Social Justice at the BAC. She received her MLA from Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, with prior studies in environmental psychology from the University of Notre Dame. María is originally from Chile.

Through her upcoming lecture, María Bellalta revisits the splendor of the Latin American landscape and the magnitude of its natural resources as wonders that have been exploited over the centuries, provoking rapid urbanization in these regions characterized by environmental and social inequality. Through her work and recent publication: Social Urbanism —Reframing Spatial Design - Discourses from Latin America—, Bellalta shares the spatial, political, and economic underpinnings of a renewed urbanization model as evidenced in Medellín, Colombia, imparting valuable lessons and greater environmental and social justice practices for rapidly expanding cities of the Global South. The unique qualities of the landscape are expressed in unison with the social values of the community and as the building blocks where environmental planning and design result in more sustainable cultural and ecological spaces.

Light food and beverage included.

No Recording Available.
03/29
Wednesday at 5:30PM EST

Michelle Wilde Anderson

Michelle Wilde Anderson is a law professor at Stanford University, where she teaches in the areas of local government, property, and environmental justice. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Yale Law Journal, and other publications. The American Law Institute (ALI) awarded her their Early Career Scholars Medal in 2019. Anderson came up through 13 years of public education in California and served as a proud member of the law faculty of the University of California, Berkeley for six years. She has also taught as a visiting professor at Harvard and Columbia Law Schools. Anderson chairs the Board of Directors of the National Housing Law Project and has served as a board member for the East Bay Community Law Center in Oakland for more than a decade. She lives with her family in San Francisco.

The Fight to Save the Town: Reimagining Discarded America

The Fight to Save the Town: Reimagining Discarded America (published by Simon & Schuster in June 2022) focuses on the dismantling and rebuilding of local government in high-poverty communities. Rooted in humanistic portraits of urban and rural poverty, the book describes the fallout from decades of cuts to local government amidst rising income and racial segregation. It profiles networks of public officials and residents in four communities (Stockton, California; Josephine County, Oregon; Lawrence, Massachusetts; and Detroit, Michigan) who are progressing on some of the hardest challenges in American poverty today. This talk will focus on this challenge of local government inequality and what residents of “discarded America” (in particular, those in Lawrence) are doing about it.

Light food and beverages included.

No Recording Available.
Design with Nature on Cape Cod and the Islands

Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket are special places known for their distinctive flora, including pine-oak forests, sandplain grasslands, and sand dunes peppered with bearberry shrubs. Unfortunately, this unique sense of place is under threat. In recent decades, contemporary landscape practices increasingly depend on environmentally unsustainable practices, replacing this sensitive ecoregion’s native flora with generic turfgrasses and popular commercial nursery trees and shrubs that could exist anywhere. Ahern seeks to reverse this damaging trend by offering a sustainable approach to landscape design based on the ecoregion’s native plants and plant communities. The talk will address strategies for ecological planting design and present a portfolio of ecologically-designed landscapes on the Cape and islands.

Light food and beverage included.

No Recording Available.
Rosetta S. Elkin’s work aims to elevate the role of plants in human life by exploring the concealed characteristics of non-human behavior. As a designer and a scholar, her work experiments with the ways in which we compose our worlds, blurring the traditional boundaries between research and practice. Elkin is the founding Principal of Practice Landscape, a collaborative studio that prioritizes garden-making, public exhibitions, ecological and horticultural research to promote a more thoughtful and accountable design agenda, while Practice Grant supports community attempts to expand land based practices. She is also a research Associate at Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum. Her work has received numerous awards including the Graham Foundation Grant, Harvard Climate Solutions Award the Garden Club of America Rome Prize in landscape architecture and has been exhibited widely in venues such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, Les Jardins de Metis, Chelsea Festival, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

The behavior of plant life illuminates one of the most important misalignments of tree planting, what specialists call species selection. Recommended lists trace a century of decisions about which plants to include or exclude in any planting project. Regrettably, species selection creates authority over local customs and extant plant life. This is the case in afforestation—the planting of trees on otherwise treeless environments such as drylands, deserts, and prairies. The influence of these lists is invisible to governments, agencies, and other funding bodies, such that species selection superimposes scientific knowledge into the living environment. This tendency is maintained by the authority of the sciences but is funded by aid agencies and brought into spatial practices by design. My suggestion is to suspend the usual order of increased productivity and one-dimensional knowledge systems that disregard plant behavior. Such authority suggests that some plants are more useful to humans than other plants that are thriving spontaneously. What is the value of environmentalism when it engenders negotiation, struggle, and indifference toward other species?

Light food and beverage included.

No Recording Available.
Billy Fleming is the Wilks Family Director of the Ian L. McHarg Center in the Weitzman School of Design, a senior fellow with Data for Progress, and co-director of the "climate + community project." Billy co-directs the climate + community project (ccp), which works to connect the demands of the climate justice movement to the policy development process. CCP aim to do this by developing new, investment-forward public policy proposals under the framework of the Decade of the Green New Deal that target the intersection of climate justice and the built environment. Its focus has been on foregrounding the role of public housing, public schools, public transportation, public power, public land, and public works in local, state, national, and international climate policy discourse.

Green Dreams or Whatever

Light food and beverage included.

No Recording Available.
Gerhard Hauber

Gerhard has been a landscape architect and planner for more than 25 years. Since 1998 he has worked on a broad range of national and international projects, having successfully led projects in the US, Great Britain, Singapore, Australia, UAE and other countries. The emphasis of his work extends beyond classical landscape architecture to urban space design and its integration into existing city structures. He has especially developed competencies in innovative and strategic technologies for sustainable, resource productive design which create life-supporting and aesthetic built environments. In his work Climate adaptive design and a respectful integration of natural resources are an inspiration and challenge in finding a dynamic balance for each individual project. Especially expressed by a water sensitivity to be the soul and basis for any design in his projects. Since October 2011 he sits on the expert commission for sustainable urban design for the German Association of Sustainable Building (LEED or BREEAM equivalent).

Climate Responsive and Water Sensitive Landscapes

The discussions about climate change triggers a convolute of strategies, research, revised regulations, discussions, and actions that have been unthinkable just a few years ago. While water sensitive urban design is more and more common a holistic approach to mitigate climate impact and reduce nature destruction, it is far away from a coordinated and focused approach. Landscape Architecture must play a major role in the process of re-organizing and re-establishing a nature positive, climate protective and human's livability centric planning and construction scenario. We landscape architects have a long history of understanding nature and transforming natural processes into an urban environment. Several pilot-projects will show aspects of how these nature-based processes can be used to design and build a new healthy and nature protective urban environment. Based on this philosophy let’s discuss how to move forward!

Light food and beverage included.

No Recording Available.
Jamaal Green is an assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning in the Weitzman School of Design. Dr. Green’s work touches on economic development, economic geography and the applications of spatial analysis to planning problems. He is particularly interested in how planning can better orient itself around truly encouraging better outcomes for marginalized individuals and communities.

Wrestling with Equity: Considering Disparate Impact

How should planners consider disparate impact when formulating policy? Drawing upon two distinct cases, Green will highlight how one organization sought to address historic bias and how a contemporary debate over the siting of recreational cannabis dispensaries should encourage planners to pause when considering policy responses concerning disparate impact.

No Recording Available.
Approaches to Deep Decarbonization at the National and Local Levels

Cities connect to their environment through infrastructure that is built through physical, technological, and social systems. David's research and teaching focus on how planners, policymakers, and advocates can shape and implement these systems using technology, data, and analysis.

Light food and beverage included.

No Recording Available.