

Prototype to Permanent:

Tactical Urbanism's Growing Influence on Placemaking, Policy, and Infrastructure

Session SAT-A06

Saturday, November 20, 2021 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Overview

Tactical urbanism is concerned with opportunistic and catalytic improvements to the public realm. It has been a cornerstone of many cities' DIY public space responses to COVID. Our panel will explore how tactical approaches to practice have expanded into contemporary placemaking, community outreach, planning policy, and green infrastructure.

Learning Outcomes

- Survey the history of tactical urbanism from its early days as DIY street interventions to more sophisticated outreach and design processes for complex projects.
- 2. Learn innovative community engagement tools that can bring a more inclusive range of participants to public outreach.
- 3. Learn how to incorporate public space and public life metrics and hypothesis-based urban design into planning and design projects.
- 4. Understand how tactical thinking can be extended to new aspects of urban planning policy and green infrastructure.







Nate Cormier ASLA

Managing Studio Director, RIOS

Nate's interest in landscape design as a form of storytelling drew him to Los Angeles after two decades of practice in Seattle and an MLA from Harvard. Nate's projects, including downtown parks in Denver, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Palm Springs, unearth stories of place as catalysts for authentic urban life. Nate teaches and lectures on landscape design at universities and conferences around the country. He has been active on the boards of the national Landscape Architecture Foundation and numerous urban environmental and civic groups. Nate's current research interest centers around health and wellness in urban environments.



Sofie Kvist Cand Arch, MAA

Associate Urban Designer, Gehl Studio Inc.

Sofie Kvist is trained in Urban Design at Aarhus School of Architecture, in Denmark. With 15 years of experience working across the globe, from Scandinavia and Europe, to Asia and the Americas, she bridges her passion for people-centered design across all scales, from public realm strategies to urban transformation and public space design. Prototyping and engagement are central pillars in all her projects, and Ms. Kvist strongly believes that without people and process, there is no project. User-oriented design at all scales, starts with understanding what people need, want and care about.



Kevin Robert Perry FASLA

Senior Landscape Architect, Toole Design Group & Urban Rain Design Inc.

Kevin Robert Perry is a landscape architect and nationally recognized leader in successfully integrating stormwater management with high-quality urban design. For nearly two decades, Kevin has worked on over 90 green infrastructure projects throughout North America. He has received multiple national and regional awards for his work in green infrastructure and was elevated as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2017. In 2012, Kevin launched his design studio, Urban Rain Design, which aims to provide comprehensive green infrastructure visioning, planning, and design strategies to communities across the U.S. and internationally.

People First Design & Tactical Urbanism

Sofie Kvist



People First Design: Measure What you Care About

Jan Gehl's work quantifing and qualifying what makes a good habitat for humans went from being a one-man operation in the early 1970s to a current global trend informing change at public space, neighborhood, and city scale. With the simple mantra 'measure what you care about' focus in planning and design is shifting and the process is becoming equally important to the end goal. And what is permanence really in the ever-changing landscapes of cities?

The Impact of Parklets: From Money in the Meter to Formalized Program

15 years ago, Rebar (whose leaders are now part of Gehl) went guerilla style in San Francisco and took over parking spaces with pop-up and mobile parks – bringing green to the grey. This quickly grew to a global trend of networked cities celebrating PARKing Day and went from guerilla to a formalized design standard in many US cities. The simplicity of the concept made it accessible and tangible and set the stage for further co-creation and prototyping to happen.

'There is no logic that can be superimposed on the city; people make it, and it's to them, not buildings, that we must fit our plans.' – Jane Jacobs

Prototyping Scaled: Beyond Paint and Movable Furniture

GroundPlay, San Francisco. A mission driven prototyping program operating across project types, with emphasis on building transformation from the ground up.

BO01, Malmö Sweden / the BAU movement / Innovation Districts across the US. Prototyping new ways of working, playing, living, and socializing at neighborhood scale.

Social Impact through Prototyping Design and Engagement

São Paulo Plazas. Prototyping public spaces as a platform for engagement, surfacing community needs and building trust.

SplashJam, Lexington. Prototyping public space as a response to a latent demand and to encourage social mixing.

Documenting the Impact of Change: The Cycle of Measure/Test/Refine







Learning by doing....experimentation and prototyping ideas for future public spaces!

Nate Cormier



People Streets, Green Alleys, and Al Frescos

DOT Plaza, LA's first People Street. In 2012, RIOS helped LADOT and the Silver Lake community develop LA's first People Street in a triangle off of Sunset Boulevard. Colorful stenciled dot ground painting and off the shelf planters and furnishings quickly claimed the roadway as a venue for farmers markets and community gatherings. People Streets has now grown into a citywide program for public spaces that have built on the prototypes refined at DOT Plaza.

Bradley Green Alley. An example of the incremental upgrade from prototype to permanent is the Bradley Green Alley in LA's historically Latinx community of Pacoima. RIOS made permanent an interim Bradley Street People Street improvement and expanded the project to include an adjacent alley adjacent to the San Fernando Gardens public housing project. This new public space features native plants, reclaimed timber furnishings, multilingual interpretive artwork, and green stormwater infrastructure.

Leimert Park Village Al Fresco Space. RIOS HQ is located in the historically black neighborhood of Leimert Park in Los Angeles. The neighborhood's commercial core was hit hard by COVID closures and RIOS wanted to find a way to support its neighbors. RIOS has been working with community stakeholders to carve out vibrant new space in the roadway for socially distanced activities. RIOS CNC milled custom furnishings with cultural motifs and artwork contributed by neighborhood youth artists.

Case Study: Promenade 3.0

Overview. Promenade 3.0 is an effort by the City of Santa Monica and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. to develop a comprehensive place-making strategy emphasizing a new streetscape, innovative tenanting, and active public space management for Santa Monica's historic Third Street Promenade. The city hired RIOS and Gehl to prepare a strategic urban design plan and to use measurement of Gehl's Public Space/Public Life indicators to evaluate possible changes to the Promenade.

The Experiment. As an activation strategy to build momentum for the project and gather feedback from the general public, RIOS designed a series of pop-up installations on the Promenade. These installations related to ideas being considered in the master planning process and allowed the team to further refine concepts while gauging public interest.

The Hypotheses. The installations of The Experiment were driven by a series of public space hypotheses. For instance, the team anticipated that more invitations to stay in the form of creative seating, an event stage, informal play area, etc. would result in a greater diversity of people on the Promenade. Real time feedback influenced the strategic urban design plan for the Third Street Promenade's future.











Tactical Green Infrastructure

Kevin Robert Perry



Definition:

Tactical Green Infrastructure is a specialized professional design methodology, founded by Kevin Robert Perry, that assists the local community, as well as public and private agencies, to identify, design, and construct expedited green infrastructure demonstration projects. This highly interactive design and implementation process often enlists the efforts of volunteer personnel, repurposes or procures local donated construction materials, identifies potential project funding sources, and helps educate the general public on the basic principles of green infrastructure.

Why Choose Tactical Green Infrastructure?

Where typical green infrastructure projects sometimes years to go through approvals, design, and construction, Tactical Green Infrastructure identifies, designs, and constructs small scale projects within a couple of months-and allows everyone to be a part of the process.

Principles:

Tactical Green Infrastructure projects employ a series of key principles that make them successful: simplicity, cost-effectiveness, high visibility, beauty, inspiration, and quickly built.

Case Studies:

CSLGIP. California Student Leadership in Green Infrastructure Group: a group of interdisciplinary students who utilize Tactical Green Infrastructure to design, build, research, and advocate for simple and cost-effective green infrastructure projects on the UC Davis campus and surrounding California communities.

Young Hall Rain Garden. A campus retrofit built in 2019 that captures roof runoff and directs it to a rain garden that mirrors the angular design of the building's railing. Students built the rain garden and a new patio seating area within a 4 month period and for only \$3,300.

Davis Senior High School Rain Garden. The California Student Leadership in Green Infrastructure group collaborated with Davis Senior High School students, teachers, and staff to design and implement a rain garden at a highly visible and central courtyard space on the high school campus.

Elk Grove Nature Park Rain Garden. A 1,000 SF rain garden planned as part of the Elk Grove Nature Park provides an amenity space for three nearby schools.







Notes



Sources

https://gehlpeople.com/ https://www.rios.com/projects/promenade-3-0/ https://www.urbanraindesign.com/ http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/about/







