From Studying to Shaping: Reframing Urban Ecology into a Proactive Science through Pedagogy, Practice and Research

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Urban ecosystems are dynamic and heterogeneous. Ecologists who engage with the human-built environment need to consider the complexities of varied land uses, histories and management regimes, disturbance events, density patterns, household structures, lifestyles, and changing climates as they develop their research methods. In 2005, I introduced the concept of designed experiments as a framework for integrating ecological research into landscape and urban design. Since 2010, under my direction, the Urban Ecology and Design Lab (UEDLAB) has used this framework in developing cities that work for people and ecosystems. The UEDLAB aims to define resilient urban ecosystems, incorporates scientific methods in constructing and managing cities, and implement effective and adaptable experiments specific to urban sites and communities. The UEDLAB focuses on research in design practice at multiple levels in projects that focus on climate and coastal adaptation, parks and greenways, green infrastructure and engineered ecosystems. The UEDLAB works nationally on research in pedagogy through the Earth Stewardship Initiative; at the regional level we serve the State of Connecticut on coastal adaptation connected to municipalities. Our research programs on constructed ecosystems, most recently thermo-greenwalls, are NSF funded. The work of the UEDLAB creates the foundation for bridging the Schools of Forestry and Architecture and supporting a unique interdisciplinary joint degree program. Altogether, my research, teaching, and designs stem from envisioning urban ecology as a transformational science for shaping and studying resilient cities of the future.

WEDNESDAY September 9, 2015
12:00-1:00 FREE EVENT in Burke Auditorium, Kroon Hall
Lunch will be provided – first come, first served
#FESseminar

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