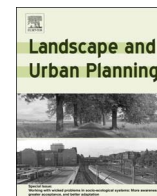




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Landscape and Urban Planning

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/landurbplan

Food growing in the city: Exploring the productive urban landscape as a new paradigm for inclusive approaches to the design and planning of future urban open spaces

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Urban agriculture
Landscape planning
Food growing
Urban governance
Resilient communities and cities

ABSTRACT

This special issue considers food growing in the city. It presents a series of papers which explore the interface between urban growing initiatives and the planned city, and identifies the development of the movement in different world regions and situations. It explores the characteristics of different food growing and urban gardening scenarios regarding the inherent properties of the urban agriculture/food growing complex as an urban movement, its drivers and the niche that it occupies within the city. The papers address circumstances of food growing in highly developed western planning systems, typically represented in Europe, but also other global regions which show different historical and development contexts. These demonstrate that urban food growing initiatives are largely activist-led and tend to fall outside of, or conflict with current city planning models. Where these initiatives are incorporated, they have the potential to provide effective urban landscape solutions that respond to local circumstances, new markets, engendering social and environmental improvement. Taken together, the papers suggest that urban agriculture models need to be recognised more widely within mainstream urban planning and the urban development process.

1. Introduction

This Special Issue of *Landscape and Urban Planning* examines food growing in the city, with the aim of exploring the interface between food growing activities that exist or are evolving in the planned city, the consequent interest in urban agricultural systems and the resultant urban spatial models presented. As such, this Special Issue aims to bring together, in a single volume, an amalgamation of material from international authors/researchers working across disciplines and in different world contexts to show how this interface is demonstrated, exploring both general and specific situations.

Urban food growing initiatives have long served local communities, and although the broad benefits are well rehearsed (Bell et al., 2016; Bendt, Barthel & Colding, 2013; Breuste & Artmann, 2015; Crouch, 1989; Crouch, Sempik, Wiltshire, 2005; Speak, Mizgajski, & Borysiak, 2015), they are now increasingly being explored in relation to the future development of urban environments. This includes the potential attributes of an urban agriculture approach to explore new paradigms and models/frameworks for the planning and design of future urban landscapes. This context underpins this SI. However, currently, urban food growing, as a strategic component of a landscape model, remains relatively isolated from mainstream urban design or landscape planning. This is partly due to the absence of critical discussion and limited information regarding the diverse typologies, scenarios and approaches that fall within the urban agriculture–food growing complex and their high relevance to the urban futures debate (Bell et al., 2016; Certoma & Notteboom, 2017; Viljoen, Bohn, Howe, 2005; Viljoen & Wiskerke, 2012). Such a model might move us towards a new paradigm for urban landscape that could tackle current and future challenges associated with food production and environmental changes whilst, at the same time, emphasising active and positive engagement with others, particularly in a context where the world population is increasingly living in urban locations. Accordingly, we consider current thinking regarding food growing initiatives in the context of modern urban dynamics and societal demands (Hinchcliffe & Whatmore, 2006; Matos & Batista, 2013).

Several substantial texts explore different aspects of the urban agriculture and food growing movement, (for example, Crouch, 1989; Crouch et al., 2005; Hardman & Larkham, 2014; Reynolds, 2008; Viljoen & Wiskerke, 2012; Viljoen et al., 2005), but questions arise regarding the trajectories of urban food growing and how they are represented in terms of urban form and integration, what niches they occupy, the socio cultural dimensions that they address, the associated drivers and how they interface or conflict with urban planning systems (Adams, Scott, & Hardman, 2014; Barthel, Parker, Ernston, 2013; Breuste, 2010; Drilling, Giedych, & Poniży, 2016; Hawkins et al., 2011; Spiklová & Vágner, 2016). In this regard new and established urban food growing initiatives are challenging social, spatial, environmental and economic conceptions (Cilliers, Timmermans, Goorbergh, van den & Slijkhuis, 2015; Matos and Batista, 2013; Perez-Vazquez, Anderson, & Rogers, 2005). They demonstrate socio-

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2017.10.003>

spatial experimentation arising from different contexts, diverse motivations and actors, which can inform new ways of planning and designing landscapes. The resurgence of the food growing movement shows temporal and spatial particularities (Caputo et al., 2016; Camps-Calvet, Langemeyer, Calvet-Mir, Gomez-Baggethun, & March, 2015) which may reflect different sets of socio-spatial associations, contrasting between the formality of rigid structures to total “freestyle” and “disordered” spatial experimentations that transcend conventional systems (Costa, Fox-Kämper, Good, & Sentić, 2016; Scott, Dean, Barry, & Kotter, 2017). For example, emergent initiatives occupy diverse contexts in the city (e.g., vacant land, rooftops, community gardens, verandas, road side) and show evidence of new socio-spatial paradigms of the food revolution (Barthel et al., 2013; Caputo et al., 2016; Hawkins et al., 2011; Shepard, 2013).

Elsewhere, existing subsistence based farming initiatives challenge the direction of planning systems and notions of designed forms, the identities of cities or fundamental rights to use land for growing (Biel, 2013). These are aspects highly relevant to landscape and urban planning, which need to be explored in relation to achieving sustainable cities, the typology of urban forms and building resilient communities which in turn are grounded by landscape and urban identities (Barthel et al., 2013).

Urban food growing thus presents both an established type of land use which can be observed as the survival or translocation of a previously rural activity within the urban realm (Brinkmann, Schumacher, Dittrich, Kadaore, & Buerkert, 2012; Fuseini & Kemp, 2015) as well as the development of new landscape models as alternatives to typically planned landscapes. The food production complex is a field of convergence, where the resultant land forms are defined by the interaction between individual growing activities, their local environment, the urban situation and the diverse cultural and historical contexts in which they are set (Barthel et al., 2013; Costa et al., 2016; Hawkins et al., 2011). Similarly, motivation for the cultivation of urban land varies from localized food growing to complex expressions of identity which at its extreme is associated with strong political activism or anarchic activities (Hardman & Larkham, 2014; Reynolds, 2008; Shepard, 2013). These planned or unplanned places affect spatial configurations and urban dynamics and embody fluxes of people, experiences, and natural processes. They reflect the historical and cultural milieus surrounding different planning systems, impacted upon by urban development pressure, mechanisms of land allocation and ownership patterns (Black, 2013; De Silvey, 2003; Drilling et al., 2016); it is in this context that this SI is set.

Within the Western world, urban food growing in the form of urban allotments presents an established activity which has long served the tending and cultivation of food, but is being re-examined in terms of their contribution to society, individual and community endeavour (Bell et al., 2016; Breuste, 2010; De Silvey, 2003; Viljoen & Wiskerke, 2012). This activity is now receiving further validation as a bona fide urban landscape movement (Gorgolewski et al., 2011; Viljoen & Wiskerke, 2012; Viljoen et al., 2005), involving a multifaceted socio-eco-agricultural gardening complex, which involves access to and management of local land in circumstances that satisfy a range of desires and needs. Urban agricultural landscapes are claimed to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity (Kabisch, Korn, Stadler, & Bonn, 2017), provide contact with nature, promote physical and mental well-being (Coles, 2014; Dunnett & Quasim, 2000), foster social cohesion, cultural integration, intergenerational interactions and cooperation and community enterprise (Armstrong, 2000; De Silvey, 2003; Matos & Batista, 2013) with associated opportunities for leisure and recreation (Breuste, 2010), artistic/creative expressions and place-making (Noori & Benson, 2016). They may provide an arena for transmitting collective memories associated with the cycles of growing food in an urban environment, exchange of products and ethnic knowledge (Dunnett & Quasim, 2000; Van den Berg, van Winsum-Westra, De Vries, & van Dillen, 2010) and for supporting other ecosystem services (Breuste & Artmann, 2015; Ernston, 2013; Speak et al., 2015).

In other world regions alternative dynamics play out with well-established food growing practices competing for urban land and engaging with urban planning systems in which they are set. They have the potential to realize synergies that arise in different levels of urban governance, local markets and waste streams, but again, often fall outside mainstream planning aims (Corsín & Jiménez, 2014; Gerometta, Haussermann, & Longo, 2005). Accordingly, in the face of this diversity, it is appropriate and informative to explore the range of urban food growing typologies that are evident in different world regions as both broad representations and also demonstrations of detailed dynamics and circumstances of the specific urban centres in which they are located.

We can also consider how city food growing initiatives are impacting on future city landscapes and existing planning systems, and the direction that they might take in the light of the challenges posed by increased urbanisation (Bullivant, 2012), climate change, a more diverse society, and a greater emphasis on the resilience of communities and food systems (RUF Foundation, 2013), healthy lifestyles and social cohesion (Armstrong, 2000; Van den Berg et al., 2010). Key challenges for planning and designing future urban spaces include: how to create spaces for different users and for individual and shared interactions which promote social integration and cohesion, and how to promote collective endeavor, collaborative planning and participatory spatial practices (Ioannou, Morán, Sondermann, Certomà, & Hardman, 2016) in land scarce urban situations (United Nations, 2014). At the same time, urban food production may have an important role in building long-term resilience in socio-ecological systems by reducing external dependency and diminishing vulnerabilities (Colding & Barthel, 2013; RUF Foundation, 2013).

In this context, over the past decade, the number of cities actively engaging in urban food initiatives has grown globally (Bell et al., 2016; COST Action TU1201, available at http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/tud/TU1201) along with awareness of their value as a land use (Ernston, 2013). Similarly, there is an increase in the number of designers, planners and related practitioners advocating that urban food growing must be an integral part of specific policies to support urban agriculture practices as a solution to multi-issues concerning society (Hardman and Larkham, 2014; Zammit & Erjavec, 2016). These are typified by the concepts of multifunctional landscapes and continuous productive urban landscapes (Viljoen & Wiskerke, 2012; Viljoen et al., 2005). In addition, recent funded research initiatives in the UK and Europe demonstrate that these issues are moving towards the centre of the policy debate and urban planning agenda (http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/tud/TU1201; Bell et al., 2016). However, currently, urban gardening and growing food are practiced in a prescribed fashion, confined by restrictive land use and zoning regulations, constrained by formal ways of planning that fail to embrace their qualities, or are ‘alternative’ guerilla activities (Hardman & Larkham, 2014; Reynolds, 2008). These issues and the interest shown by researchers and practitioners make the subject ripe for exploration.

2. Introducing the papers

Each paper makes an individual contribution to the debate concerning urban agriculture and urban gardening and is complete in its own right, but substantial synergies are achieved by presenting papers together in a single volume, for their breadth and depth of coverage, and also as they build arguments and link concepts. Summaries in the form of brief editorial reviews (below) serve to introduce the subject matter, facilitate navigation and highlight key aspects being advanced by the authors.

We start this SI by considering the grassroots identity of the movement, its activist led approach and issues as an unplanned urban activity, with a paper examining ‘Guerrilla gardening and green activism: Rethinking the informal urban growing movement’, authored by Hardman et al. Green

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/7459957>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/7459957>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)