

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)
Honors theses

Productive Green Space in Manhattan: a urban strategy of community for the waterfront of New York

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Why cultivate in a city?

Residence and nutrition are two of the most important elements of human life and they are linked closely to each other: the production of food in a city is not a new practice, but rather has been supported by cities since its birth. The idea of *urban agriculture* reunites within itself many disparate disciplines including architecture, engineering, landscape project, geology, ecology, and recycling technologies that give life to what we could call “ecologic design”.

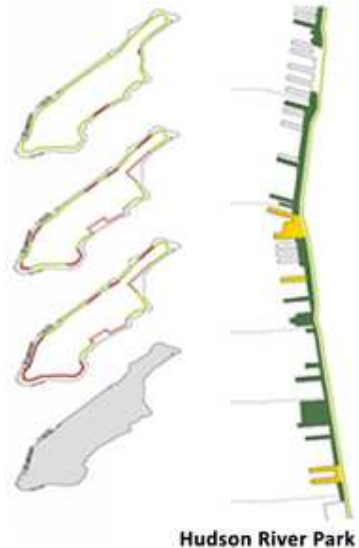


Photography about a farm field in a metropolitan context

In recent years, with the growing public consciousness of going green increasing ever so rapidly, respect for and the protection of the atmosphere has become one of the main architectural goals in today's industry.

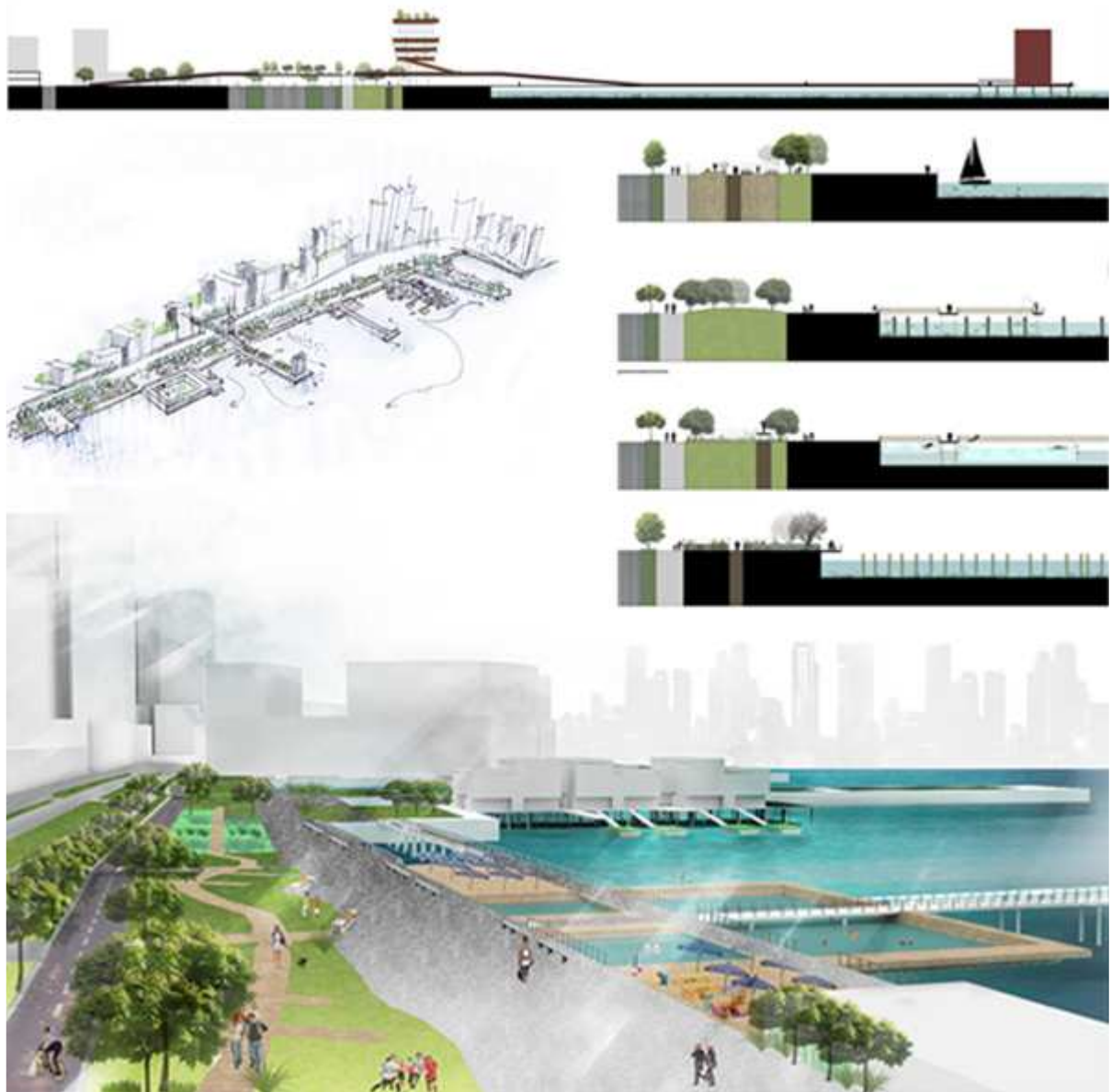
As a result, an ulterior environmental problem emerges in which in the future, land will lack the cultivation necessary to guarantee world-wide alimentary stability. Statistical data by NASA and the FAO has in fact brought this notion to light and has also given way to the formulation of new strategies or architectonic typologies from various professionals (like the Vertical Farm of the Prof. Dickson Despommier of Columbia University in New York) who are in a position to propose the theoretical and practical solutions for this issue.

For example, recently a competition was announced called “One becomes part Price: Mowing to Growing, Reinventing the American Lawn”, which was introduced publicly from the non profit association *Terreform One Design Group* of New York in 2010; the competition gives groups an objective to develop and implement the idea of the Green Design within a city. The final result of the competition is meant to develop a solution that creates a “Productive Green Space” in Americans cities, which are then in a position to give its citizens the possibility to produce food for themselves, improving the quality of the typical American nutrition and creating a greater sense of community between various American neighborhoods.



Examples of conquering the vacant lots and the rooftops in project area in New York

The thesis of the project proposed for the island of Manhattan in New York intends to expand an already existing city strategy, finalizing it by “conquering” the vacant lots present within the New York City grid until it extends this strategy out onto the waterfront of the Hudson River Park. The area for the plan has been chosen based on the urban plan of the city; the main objective is to create the small “greens paradises” dipped in the skyline of New York City that are in a position to give the citizens the possibility to take advantage of the productive and recreational character of these spaces.



Strategy Extension on the Hudson River Park waterfront

This new idea of one *life style* can also be viewed along the waterfront, which can be seen to signify the importance of the productive and recreational nature of the project: here one will find space for new areas for cultivation, including seed-private gardens in the inner area of the park and floating greenhouses along the wharves; areas for recreational activities, like urban swimming pools, fishing areas, observatory piers and housing, which instead, now only consists of a long space which is part of the waterfront in direct contact with the river.

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