

Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)/University of Hartford Center for Integrated Design (CID) Community Design Resource Project

The CRCOG/CID Community Design Resource Project is made possible by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The purpose of this project is to assess the resources and strategies communities are already using—and what they need and want—to help implement better community design on a continuous basis. The project consisted of two phases. The first phase involves an assessment of current resources in the Capitol Region for livable community design support. The second phase uses this assessment to list and evaluate a range of options for building livable community design capacity in the region.

The June 2007 “Bright Ideas on Community Design” workshops begin the Phase I assessment process. The initial assessment phase is led by the Center for Integrated Design (CID), which is composed of faculty from the University of Hartford’s Departments of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Visual Communications, Economics and Finance, and Marketing. CRCOG also supporting this effort. The workshops will inform the attendees of the concepts, goals and examples of livable communities, assess the current activities of participating communities toward these goals, and provide first contacts for subsequent discussions and assessment. The results of the assessment process will be summarized in a written report, which will be shared with all participants.

Phase II will build on the assessment of current resources and interest in livable community design to list and evaluate a range of options for building livable community design capacity in the region. The core activity is to engage a larger set of stakeholders in a broader conversation around the results of Phase I, in order to define those structures and strategies that would advance the design of more livable communities in the region. A range of options for livable community design support could extend from a “virtual community of collaboration,” using both a website and face-to-face meetings to share ideas, practices and project information to more formalized structures to support livable community design. While it is not possible to anticipate the results of this process, some of the toolkit items likely to be included in a Phase II strategy for implementation would be: a dedicated website for livable community design support showing local and other successful examples of design projects; a set of

workshop offerings on key aspects of livable community design for municipalities in the region; planning and design charettes for selected sites; and simulation software for “before” and “after” designs. In summary, Phase II will produce a resource digest of what is known about livable community design support, the needs and preferences of a variety of players, and preferred options for supporting and accelerating the use of livable community design approaches in the Capitol Region.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments and the University of Hartford Center for Integrated Design, and the municipalities and other stakeholders that participate in this project will help define those structures and strategies that will advance the design of more livable communities in the greater Hartford region for many years to come.

*We want to assess what resources
and strategies communities are
already using and what they need
and want for the future.*



The Center for Integrated Design

The Center for Integrated Design (CID) is a multi-disciplinary organization housed at the University of Hartford. It provides Hartford and the surrounding communities with resources and solutions that address architectural, engineering, business and visual communication design issues. It is committed to establishing interdisciplinary and educational dialogues between the community, the University's faculty and its students. The CID also provides continuing educational and professional development opportunities to the design and business community. This professional integrated multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving that actively engages students in the process is what makes the CID unique.

The University of Hartford is committed to community service and has close ties to the greater Hartford community. This foundation allows the CID to expand upon the existing services the University already offers. The seven colleges provide the rich diversity of faculty and students engaged in a broad range of disciplines from which the CID can employ.

The Center works on projects that intersect the four disciplines: Architecture, Engineering, Business, and Visual Communication Design. A project may include all four disciplines, any combination of disciplines, or only one discipline. Governments, public entities, private entities, public K-12 schools, private K-12 schools, non-profits and other organizations may submit projects for consideration. The projects must have clearly defined goals and ideally would be completed during the academic semesters. Projects that require the use of winter or summer break will be considered, though the primary function of the Center is to focus on projects that can be completed during the academic semesters. Winter or summer projects are excellent periods for internship opportunities.

Currently, the projects are housed within the structure of existing curricula and classrooms of the four disciplines. The Center currently has five full time faculty members: Terri Albert, Jeff Cohen, Jim Fuller, David Pines and Nancy Wynn; one outside consultant, Terri Hahn; and an Interim Director, John Carson, Vice President of External University Relations.

Multi-disciplinary approaches to learning are important to the future of education. Global perspectives, symphonic systems skills, and creative collaboration are becoming essential characteristics that knowledge-based cultures demand from their professionals, as well as graduating students. Employing project-based learning experience for students, offering professional development opportunities to the community, and employing the University's faculty in civic engagement provides the best possible mix of scholarly research with professional practice.

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Increasingly, the biggest public challenges we face are regional challenges. Transportation infrastructure, open space and farmland preservation, water supply, housing, solid waste disposal, access to opportunity, workforce development and economic development are all challenges that go beyond the reach of individual towns. Our future economic vitality and quality of life depend on us collaborating to provide the regional solutions needed.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is the largest of the state's fifteen regional planning organizations. We are a voluntary association of twenty-nine local governments, established under the authority of the State Statutes. On a daily basis, CRCOG works to expand voluntary cooperation among its member municipalities to address many of the region's most pressing governmental and public challenges. Our area of operation is the City of Hartford and the twenty-eight surrounding suburban and rural communities.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments conducts a wide range of projects spanning the topics of housing, land use, environmental planning, transportation, public safety, cooperative purchasing and municipal services. Through our work, we strive to:

- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal governments, thereby helping to save taxpayers money.
- Provide an efficient and balanced transportation system.
- Help our municipalities build and maintain livable communities.
- Improve the coordination and provision of public safety services throughout the region and state.
- Provide public policy leadership on regional issues.
- Support Hartford as the strong center of a strong region.

At CRCOG, regional leadership has a special legitimacy because it comes from municipal leaders—primarily mayors, first selectmen and town council chairmen—who make up our governing policy board. Through CRCOG the Capitol Region's local leaders work together for the greater good of the region. To the extent that our Council of Governments succeeds, it is due to the active participation and leadership provided by municipal officials.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments works for the people of our region by providing a forum for municipal leaders to work together. We enable the implementation of regional solutions to regional challenges on a range of areas which have a very direct affect on quality of life and economic vitality in Greater Hartford. CRCOG helps provide the regional connection for how we live our lives.

To learn more about the work of the Capitol Region Council of Governments, visit us at www.crcog.org.

Biographies:

JAMES FULLER

James E. Fuller, AIA NCARB is Associate Professor of Architecture and Director of the Undergraduate Program in the Department of Architecture at the University of Hartford in West Hartford where he has been on the faculty since 1995. He is a founding member of the Center for Integrated Design at the University of Hartford. A licensed architect since 1984, he is an active member of the American Institute of Architects and is on the national Architects and Education Committee. He is certified by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture with University Honors from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Education from the University of Hartford. He is a Senior Architect with JCArchitecture in Hartford, CT. with a primary focus on educational facilities, especially K-12.

He was President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1994, Vice-President in 1993, Commissioner of Design for 1991 and 1992 and was on their Board of Directors from 1991-1995. He currently serves on the Education Committee of the Construction Institute.

TERRI-ANN P. HAHN

Terri-Ann P. Hahn, RLA, CPESC, CPSWQ is an adjunct professor in the Architecture Department of the University of Hartford. She teaches Principles of Landscape Architecture and Site Planning and has been at the University since 1999. She is a licensed landscape architect in Connecticut and New York. Ms. Hahn is a principal with LADA, P.C., Land Planners – a multi-disciplinary firm with offices in Simsbury, CT and Brewster, NY. She recently received a CTASLA Honor Award for a historic preservation / community design Handbook prepared for the Lead Abatement Program for homeowners in Manchester, Connecticut. As a member of the Center for Integrated Design, she worked to translate diverse public input into workable and practical recommendations for the Town of Bloomfield to implement to protect and enhance their downtown area.

MARY ELLEN KOWALEWSKI

Mary Ellen Kowalewski, AICP, is the Director of Community Development of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). CRCOG is a voluntary association of municipal governments serving the City of Hartford and 28 surrounding suburban and rural communities. As Director of Community Development, Ms. Kowalewski oversees projects spanning the topics of housing, land use, environmental planning, cooperative purchasing and municipal services. Through its varied projects, CRCOG works to expand voluntary cooperation among its member municipalities as the means to successfully respond to many of the region's pressing governmental and public challenges. Ms. Kowalewski holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Bates College, and the degree of Master in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, is Secretary of the Housing Education Resource Center, and is a member of the Partnership for Strong Communities' HOMEConnecticut Steering Committee.

DAVID PINES

David Pines, Ph.D. is associate professor and chair of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Hartford. He has been at the university since fall 2000. He earned his Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2000.

Professor Pines' areas of interest and expertise are in energy efficiency and conservation, alternative energy, international development projects, and water treatment. Recent projects include working with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineers on developing suggestions for reducing Connecticut's fossil fuel consumption over the next ten years for the Energy & Technology Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly; designing and installing a solar groundwater pump to increase access to clean water supply for a village in India in conjunction with Engineers Without Borders; and to investigate the requirements for and the opportunities available to ensure that the Center of Bloomfield remain as the cultural hub of Bloomfield. In all of these projects, Professor Pines stresses the active involvement and participation of undergraduate engineering students. He has also led numerous senior design projects in the areas of traffic engineering and land development.

LYLE WRAY

Lyle Wray became Executive Director the Capitol Region Council of Governments based in Hartford, Connecticut in April 2004. Prior to that he served as Director of the Ventura County Civic Alliance that was a regional civic organization for Ventura County bringing together economic, environmental and social equity perspectives to enhance quality of life in the County.

From 1992 to 2003 he served as Executive Director of the Citizens League based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Citizens League is a more than fifty-year-old citizen-based public policy organization that identifies important regional and state issues, proposes solutions based on citizen research covering such areas as urban development, transportation and education. The organization publishes a monthly public policy journal, the *Minnesota Journal* and has issued more than 300 reports and statements.

Lyle served as Dakota County Administrator for five years and as human services director for two years before that. Dakota County is located along the Mississippi River southeast of the Twin Cities. Dakota County's population is about 400,000.

He was director of the quality assurance and protective services division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services from 1984 to 1986; compliance monitor from 1980 to 1984 for the *Welsch Consent Decree* issued by the United States District Court; program director in developmental disabilities at the Brainerd Regional Treatment Center in 1979-80; and mental retardation services division director in the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Department of Social Services from 1978 to 1979.

Lyle received his B.A., M.A. and PhD in 1972, 1975 and 1980, respectively, from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He has been an active member of numerous associations, including the National Association of Regional Councils Executive Director's Committee, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee of NARC, YMCA Minneapolis board of advisors, the Center for Victims of Torture, Lifeworks, a service provider for persons with developmental disabilities and their families, the National Civic League Council of Advisors, the International City/County Management Association, was vice president of the National Association of County Administrators from 1990 to 1992, and served as president of the Minnesota chapter of the American Society for Public Administration in 1991-92.

He teaches public administration courses online in metropolitan government, outcomes measurement for public services, public service redesign and e-government. He is co-author of the recent book *Results that Matter* and has published and consulted extensively in the area of outcomes and performance measurement for public agencies and nonprofits.

NANCY WYNN

Nancy Wynn is an artist, designer and Assistant Professor of Visual Communication Design at the University of Hartford. She has received national awards for print and web graphics, is affiliated with visiting artists & mentoring programs and her artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Her publications include; "A 'Real' Undergraduate Design Education" in *The International Journal of Learning, Volume 13, 2006*; and three essays in *National Graduate Seminar, Public Strategies: Public Art and Public Space, 1998* (a publication by New York University).

Nancy's professional experience began in 1986, working for various Connecticut design firms and a Fortune 500 insurance company. In 1993, she started her own design firm, Nancy E. Wynn Studio, and successfully built her business over the past fourteen years. In 2001, she founded Civic Design, a professional design firm at the Hartford Art School, which specialized in servicing Hartford-area clients while creating internship opportunities for design students.

Presently, Nancy is vice president of bobcopy, an advertising and marketing firm in Glastonbury, Connecticut, that her and her husband run together. And, she is also the chairman of the board overseeing, a four-year-old downtown Hartford, Connecticut fine art gallery, Clare Gallery. This summer Nancy will be an Oxford Fellow presenting a lecture on 'Image-making in the 21st Century' as well as debating the connections between art/humanities and science/technology.

Nancy Wynn received her BFA from The University of Connecticut in Graphic Design, studied at The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1984 and completed her MFA in photography from The Hartford Art School.

Resource List:

Following is a preliminary list of resources available to assist municipalities and others on community planning and design issues. The Community Design Resource Project will work to clarify regional needs for community design support, and will expand upon this preliminary list to respond to regional needs.

Affordable Housing Design Advisor

<http://www.designadvisor.org>

This site serves as a tool, resource, idea bank, and step-by-step guide to design in affordable housing. It brings together experience and ideas from successful affordable housing projects all over the country, and the people who developed, designed and built them. The site is developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects, the Enterprise Foundation, The Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, The National Congress for Community Economic Development, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. The site includes “Steps to Design Quality” and a “Design Considerations Checklist.”

AIGA: the professional association for design Sustainable Design Practices

http://sustainability.aiga.org/sus_resources/sus_about/sus_mission

The AIGA Center for Sustainable Design is dedicated to providing designers with practical information regarding sustainable business practice. Through case studies, interviews, answers and discourse the Center will encourage and support designers as they incorporate sustainable thinking into their professional lives.

Sustainability is a growing concern for many designers. Accordingly, it will be examined from a wide range of perspectives: from the nuts and bolts of daily studio life to the larger marketplace dynamics and global concerns within which designers operate. This will be accomplished primarily through the community website, conferences and an online forum.

American Institute of Architects

<http://www.aia.org>

Since 1857, the AIA has represented the professional interests of America’s architects. As AIA members, over 80,000 licensed architects, emerging professionals, and allied partners express their commitment to excellence in design and livability in our nation’s buildings and communities. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect’s dedication to the highest standards in professional practice. For 150 years, members of the American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes

American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment

http://www.aia.org/cote3_template.cfm?pagename=cote_default

The Committee on the Environment (COTE) works to advance, disseminate, and advocate—to the profession, the building industry, the academy, and the public—design practices that integrate built and natural systems and enhance both the design quality and environmental performance of the built environment.

American Planning Association (APA)

www.planning.org

This is the official website of the American Planning Association. It offers research, case studies, publications and news on a wide range of community planning topics. The website includes resources available to the public at large, and members only services. The Capitol Region Council of Governments subscribes to the APA Planners Advisory Service (PAS) and can assist CRCOG municipalities with research on specific topics through PAS.

American Society of Landscape Architects

<http://www.asla.org/>

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association representing landscape architects. Beginning with 11 original members, ASLA has grown to more than 16,200 members and 48 chapters, representing all 50 states, US territories, and 42 countries around the world. ASLA promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship.

Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Livable Communities Resources

www.crcog.org/community_dev/livable_toolkit.html

The *Livable Communities Toolkit: A Best Practices Manual for Metropolitan Regions* presents practical approaches to regional and local development. The toolkit has two sections: A Region in Balance and Tools for Towns. *A Region in Balance* describes actions taken by other regions around the country to encourage better growth and provides some steps we might take toward a broader statewide approach to building balanced, livable communities. *Tools for Towns* covers eight development topics from agricultural lands preservation to rethinking zoning.

Also available from CRCOG are *Smart Growth Planning and Zoning Recommendations*. These recommendations are based on the results of Visual Preference Surveys and Community Workshops, and were prepared for CRCOG by A. Nelesen Associates, Inc.

CRCOG’s livable communities project also produced a 12-minute video “*Together We Can Grow Better*,” which introduces topics associated with growth and livable communities. The final work product of this project was a *Regional Development Issues Survey*. This brief report presents the results of a survey on growth/conservation issues and policies conducted by the UConn Center for Survey Research and Analysis. It provides insight into the views of the region’s citizens.

For information on Pedestrian, Bicycle and Livable Communities see www.crcog.org/publications/transportation.html

For information on Transit Oriented Development principles see www.crcog.org/publications/community_dev.html

The publications page of the CRCOG website (www.crcog.org) contains many other documents relevant to municipal planning and community design.

The Congress for the New Urbanism

<http://cnu.org/>

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is the leading organization promoting walkable, neighborhood-based development as an alternative to sprawl. CNU takes a proactive, multi-disciplinary approach to restoring our communities. Members are the life of the organization – they are the planners, developers, architects, engineers, public officials, investors, and community activists who create and influence our built environment, transforming growth patterns from the inside out. Whether it's bringing restorative plans to hurricane-battered communities in the Gulf Coast, turning dying malls into vibrant mixed-use neighborhoods, or reconnecting isolated public housing projects to the surrounding fabric, new urbanists are providing leadership in community building.

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA)

www.ccapa.org

This is the official website of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association. It contains the Chapter's quarterly newsletters, information on training opportunities on planning topics, and links to other sites dedicated to planning and community development issues.

Connecticut Green Building Council

<http://www.ctgbc.org/>

The Connecticut Green Building Council is a non-profit 501(c3) organization that seeks to improve the quality of life in Connecticut through the promotion of intelligently designed and constructed high performance energy efficient buildings.

The Connecticut Main Street Center

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/default.asp>

The Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC) is the state's leading resource for cities and towns seeking to comprehensively revitalize their main street districts. It provides solutions to help Connecticut's main streets once more become thriving centers of commercial and social activity. The Connecticut Main Street Center helps communities analyze core issues and set attainable objectives. It provides education and training, resources and tools, and advocacy. Their organized yet flexible approach allows communities to identify and develop their unique assets in an integrated and comprehensive way. The Connecticut Main

Street Center is sponsored by The Connecticut Light and Power Company and the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

New Urbanism

<http://www.newurbanism.org/newurbanism/principles.html>

NewUrbanism.org was started in 1998, and has since grown to become a leading and well respected informational website promoting good urbanism, smart transportation, transit oriented development, and sustainability. NewUrbanism.org is independently owned and operated and has no connection to any other organization, corporation, or public entity. The site includes the principles of new urbanism, and SmartCode, a comprehensive form-based planning ordinance.

Regional Plan Association

<http://www.rpa.org>

The Regional Plan Association (RPA) is an independent, not-for-profit regional planning organization that improves the quality of life and the economic competitiveness of the 31-county New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region through research, planning, and advocacy. For more than 80 years, RPA has been shaping transportation systems, protecting open spaces, and promoting better community design for the region's continued growth. RPA anticipates the challenges the region will face in the years to come, and mobilizes the region's civic, business, and government sectors to take action. This site includes a publications page, and information on current community design projects.

Smart Growth Network

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/default.asp>

In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined with several non-profit and government organizations to form the Smart Growth Network (SGN). The Network was formed in response to increasing community concerns about the need for new ways to grow that boost the economy, protect the environment, and enhance community vitality. The Network's partners include environmental groups, historic preservation organizations, professional organizations, developers, real estate interests, and local and state governmental entities. The website includes a discussion of the principles of smart growth, with resource links on how to implement those principles. Free smart growth guides are available through the web site.

Town of Simsbury Guidelines for Community Design

http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public_documents/simsburyCT_Downloads/community_design/DesignGu.pdf

This excellent publication presents guidelines for evaluating future development, which are a basis for interpreting design in the context of Simsbury's unique character. The guidelines are intended to stimulate creativity and, through the design review process, help the applicant pursue designs that complement, and are compatible with, the existing fabric of site and building design in Simsbury.