Biophilic Cities: Design for Planetary Health and Human Flourishing

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Biophilia: “...the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. Innate means hereditary and hence part of ultimate human nature.” --E.O. Wilson
What Are We Drawn To?
Nature Associated With...

Flourishing!

Lower Depression and Anxiety
Lower Levels of Stress
Improved Mood /
Increased Happiness
Increased Physical Activity
Lower Crime / Gun Violence
Reduced Social Isolation
Lower Childhood Asthma
Higher Cognitive Performance
Higher School Test Scores
Higher Worker Productivity
Higher Creativity
Greater Generosity
Greater Cooperation
Longer Term Thinking
Increased Laughter and Joy
Biophilic Cities Are Resilient Cities
Biophilic Cities: Nature + Cities Together
“...[E]very occupied space includes a view of nature and is within 30 feet of an operable window. Plants are located throughout the building. The building was designed to maximize natural daylight and each of its three floors open out into peaceful garden spaces. The green roof is accessible to staff and visitors.” –Richard Piacentini

When we think of green roofs, many benefits come to mind such as capturing stormwater, insulating buildings and creating habitat for wildlife. One other important benefit often overlooked is that green roofs can help satisfy our innate desire to connect with nature. This is developed by the late Dr. Stephen R. Kellner, who organized a biophilic design classification system in six primary areas: 1) environmental features 2) light and space 3) natural shapes and forms 4) place-based relation-
Biophilic Cities?

Nature CONNECTIONS
Urban Nature CONSERVATION
Coexistence and CARE for nature
The Vision

Singapore: City in a Garden
Biophilic City in Nature

PARK ROYAL at Pickering
WOHA Architects
Beyond Parks

Immersive Nature
Integrated, Continuous and Seamless

Built and Natural Environments
Together

Biodiversity and Wildness

Culture of Biophilia

Whole of City

Whole of Life

Just and Inclusive
What Are the Qualities of Biophilic Cities?

Networks of Interconnected Nature Whole-of-City Approach
Indoor

A Matrix of Urban Nature

Outdoor

Discrete Features

Pathways, Connections, Ecosystems
Smooth-Coated Otters of Singapore

Watch the Film!

An Ethic of Coexistence

Photo: Ernest Chua/TODAY
Bird-Friendly Cities?

Lights-Out Programs
Perth Urban Wetland: Replacing a sterile water feature with a Native Biodiverse Wetland in the Middle of the City!

Wildness in Cities
Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Protecting Trees and Urban Forests

“You can stand beneath a grand oak and know that your more distant ancestors did so too. Oaks hold onto the memories of earlier generations. By touching the skin of the oak it is possible to feel some tentative trace of those that have gone before.”

--James Canton, The Oak Papers
Gotham Whale

Watch the Film!

=Urban Awe

PAUL SIESWERDA
GOTHAM WHALE Images: Artie Raslich
Birmingham joins San Francisco and Oslo in global green cities club

City famous for its industrial heritage joins network of ‘biophilic’ cities celebrated for
Edmonton
Ecological Connectivity and Wildlife Passages

Richmond
Riverfront Masterplan

Portland
Green Streets

San Francisco
Sidewalk Gardens

Vitoria-Gasteiz
Green Ring

Barcelona
Superblocks

Wellington, NZ
Greenways

Conserving Marine Nature
THE NATURE-FUL CITY  Tim Beatley on the Hopeful Promise of Biophilic Cities
FEATURES  Financing Biophilic Cities  /  Citizen Science and Biophilic Cities
PROJECT PROFILE  The Butterfly Highway
PIONEER INTERVIEW  Flourishing Expert, Corey Lee M. Keyes
GUEST PERSPECTIVE  Dr. Robert Zarr on ParkRx

FEATURE  Elevating Nature: Milan’s Bosco Verticale / Reid Coffman
FEATURE  Blue Cities for Better Health / Jenny Roe
BIOPHILIC CITIES
Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning

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Visit the Biophilic Cities Network

http://biophiliccities.org/

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