

Alternative Agriculture : An Urban Application

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Thesis

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Introduction

My thesis presents a garden and landscape design for the Urban Environmental Lab (UEL). In order to set the context for the garden design, I've begun the paper with an introduction to the alternative agriculture movement. The alternative agriculture movement promotes organic farming and gardening, self-reliance and regionalized food production. Realizing that the garden project is not an isolated activity within the alternative agriculture movement, deepens the significance of the project.

After the introduction to the alternative agriculture movement, the garden and landscape designs are discussed. The principles of design, landscape layout and species function are described in detail.

My involvement in this project was primarily inspired by the ideas in Bill Mollison's books Permaculture I and Permaculture II. Although my plans vary from these principles, they still retain a sense of evolution and growth. Some areas within the landscape were not designed in detail in order to remain flexible enough to meet new needs as they arise. I expect these new needs will not become apparent until the garden is in full swing. A few facets of the garden will need to be studied to find out what combinations of plants, techniques, and technologies

will work best in the UEL garden/landscape.

It is my hope that this paper will serve as a history of the garden project for those interested in its development and as a resource for the students who will continue working on the garden project. For this purpose I've included appendices with additional information on seed and plant suppliers.