

Networked regions and cities in times of fragmentation: Developing smart, sustainable and inclusive places

**Sunday 13th – Wednesday 16th May 2012:
Delft University Technology, Delft, Netherlands**
(Excursion, walking tour and evening drinks reception Sunday 13th May)

CALL FOR PAPERS

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Open Spaces in peri-urban areas. Emergent tools and solutions for planning, managing and design G2

Session Organiser:

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This session is concerned with methodological, planning and design solutions in order to improve the management of the transformation of open spaces in peri-urban areas.

The need to transform peri-urban areas to fulfil societal requirements like high urban and landscape quality and environmental sustainability is widely recognized. Open spaces in peri-urban areas are one of the main environmental resources to be preserved to increase the sustainable conditions of the cities. Changes towards better conditions of open spaces are tough to handle because of difficulties in managing interventions and in designing valuable planning alternatives.

As cities spread spaces which used to be farmland and rural landscapes turn into urban fringes and derelict land, difficult to tackle with from the planning, management and design view point. However, over the last decade it was also observed that open spaces in peri-urban areas are becoming a pivotal instrument to reconfigure territorial and metropolitan structures, not only in Europe but also in the USA, Latin America and the Far East. By holding important environmental resources, which must be preserved to increase sustainability, open spaces provide a major element for the redevelopment of large urbanised areas, thereby bringing new configurations and opportunities to the cities.

The debate on these transformations has become the main topic for discussion supported by contributions of a variety of disciplines such as landscape architecture, spatial planning, urban design, ecology, economy, agronomy, fostering experiences of integrated planning and design of urban and territorial structures and infrastructures.

Therefore, we especially invite presentation with an interdisciplinary focus to this special session, that focuses on two topics: the management, planning and design of peri-urban

open spaces and the elaboration and application of integrated methods to take into account environmental, economical and social factors.

Anyone interested in participating in the session should register for the conference before 10th February 2012 by visiting <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2012/May-Delft/> and follow the link.