

Summary Report

Our Place in the Urban Age

The Levin College of Urban Affairs 30th Anniversary Forum Series



Designing with the Environment

Our Place in the Urban Age is a year-long series of forums and exhibits celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and exploring the dynamic role of cities in a world transformed by technology, climate change, modern lifestyles and a global economy.

- What will America's urban centers look like?
- What economic functions will they serve?
- How will the quality of life change?
- How will Cleveland and Northeast Ohio adapt?

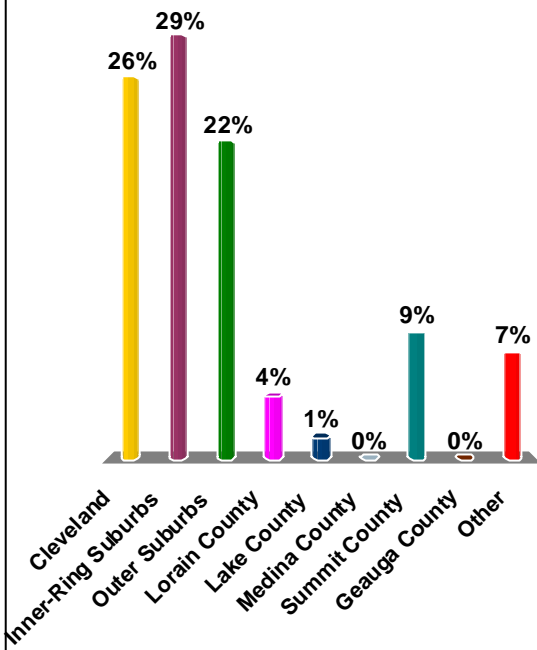
On Thursday, April 19, 2007, over 160 people gathered at the Levin College Forum to hear Steve Badanes, founder of [Jersey Devil](#) an architectural firm, speak about his buildings, community projects and his experience teaching at the [Yestermorrow](#) school in Vermont. The forum event was put together in partnership with AIA's Committee on the Environment and the Cleveland Green Building Coalition.



Who Attended?

The Forum Program seeks to strengthen the capacity of the community to tackle difficult issues across government, business and civic sectors to strengthen the region's future. Since 2000, over 11,000 people have attended over 100 forum events. So where did forum participants on April 19, 2007 come from in the region?

Where do you live?



Please indicate the sector you Represent.

Private Sector	38%
Non-Profit	10%
Government	6%
Academia	10%
Entrepreneur	15%
Student	8%
Retired/not Working	1%
Other	11%

Imagine joining with your neighbors to build your own school, library or community gathering space...

We can't keep shipping building materials back and forth across the globe before we use them. Architects and consumers need to be concerned with embodied energy-- the sum total of the energy used to construct, operate and deconstruct a building including raw material extraction, transport and manufacturing. This is why Jersey Devil's projects use local sustainable materials that work with the landscape and not against it. For instance, local vegetation is used to provide shade but also doubles as a food source for birds and wildlife. At the Casa Mariposa in Baja California, Mexico the wind off the ocean cools the interior structure from the extreme desert heat by using breezeways and the funny butterfly shape of its roof.

"As it turns out the classroom makes a great job site" Mr. Badanes told the audience of over 150 people. The students of Yestermorrow learn hand drawing, model building and the use of local materials. Students spend about two weeks producing community projects that rarely cost more than \$2,000. Some examples highlighted during the presentation were bus shelters, cross-country ski stops, tool sheds for community gardens and play structures for kids. Everyone wins with these projects Mr. Badanes pointed out. The students gain hands-on learning experiences and the community gets something in return – a place to call their own. Badanes stressed the significance of a ceremonial ribbon cutting at the completion of a community project. It represents the handing over of the project to the community for their ongoing care and appreciation.

Badanes has learned a lot of useful lessons that continue to inform and improve his work and he shared these with the audience.

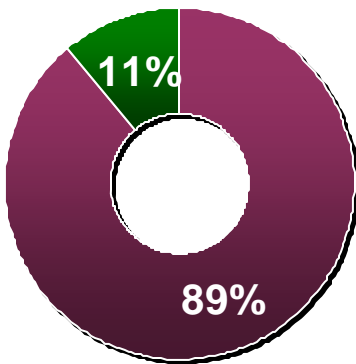
Though small in scale, the importance of community projects is far reaching. "We need to acknowledge the fact that hand craftsmanship, growing food and community places are all important land uses for cities".

"Build something that doesn't become a burden on future generations." His work models eco-responsibility in the building industry. He closed with a picture of his red 1960's era Chrysler. Though we don't necessarily think of the auto industry as being the most energy efficient, in fact, it has made incredible technological advances over the past decades and we couldn't build and sell the gas guzzling cars of the 1950s and 1960s today. Yet we buy, sell and build buildings that are the equivalent to these gas-guzzling relics every day. (In 2004, residential and commercial buildings accounted for 40% of U.S. primary energy consumption).

"Stick to your guns and maintain a sense of humor."

Badanes gave us a lot to digest last night. Lots of love and imagination is embodied in his environmentally designed projects. Can Cleveland use this to springboard into a green future?

Did today's forum give you new ideas that you can use?

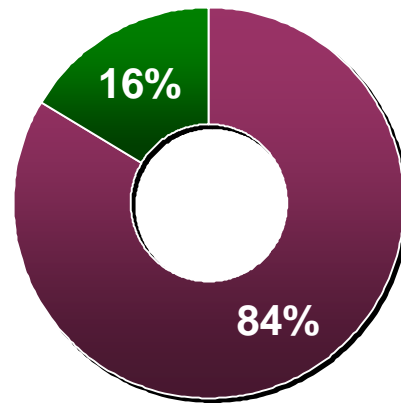


■ Yes ■ No

Mr. Badanes shared many of his inspiring designs with the audience that included everything from homes and out houses to community spaces, children's play areas and the famous Seattle Troll.

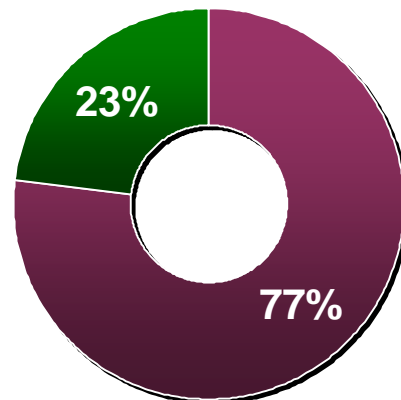
Forum participants overwhelmingly indicated that they got new ideas they could take back with them and use from the forum and the presenter. They also indicated that they felt inspired to pursue new collaborations to address the

Did today's forum inspire you to think about pursue new collaborations?



■ Yes ■ No

Did today's forum suggest any new strategies for transforming Northeast Ohio cities into hubs of innovation, places for sustainable living and places of opportunity?



■ Yes ■ No

Data was analyzed from 80 forum participants. Survey was conducted on April 19, 2007. Respondents were asked to answer a series of questions at two points in time during the forum program.

The results of audience surveys will be incorporated into an end of the series report.

All forums are archived at www.urban.csuohio.edu/forum

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