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Presentation

Developing the community seaweed gardens: Resource access, social mobilisation and marine food sovereignty

Speaker

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Abstract

Responding to the coastal pressures of rising sea levels, population increase, food sovereignty need and lack of access to marine nature, this project proposes to develop a participatory designed three dimensional dive garden near to Brighton. This is situated in the framework of continuous productive urban landscapes (Viljoen, 2012). Anchored by a sculpture reef, the sea garden will allow for the growth of seaweed for community food sovereignty and security (Desmariais, 2012). The evolving sculptural aspects of the reef, facilitated by natural processes, will develop biodiversity and habitats for marine life. Co design of reef aspects will allow for a sense of community ownership of the project, as well as emotionally durable design (Chapman, 2006).

The programme will explore local ecological knowledge in regard to community learning systems and the seaweed habitat, mending the metabolic rift between society and nature (Schneider and McMichael, 2011).

Additionally it aims to propagate edible species as *Palmaria palmata* and *Sargassum latissimum*, which would be seeded within ropes. These ropes would float on the surface, attached to buoys, themselves chained below to the artificial reef.

Through continued interaction with the marine environment through kayaking, diving, and boat access those involved will gain benefits to physical wellbeing, beyond the affects of the modernisation of the body (Sennett, 1996).

Community participation will bring socio-economic benefits, and involvement in co-design will see increased distributed intelligence employment and healthy food. Furthermore organised in a non-hierarchical cooperative fashion, the harvesting benefits will allow for the project to demonstrate the benefits of horizontalism (Sitrin, 2006, 2012). As a potential new social movement, it will be concerned to demonstrate the grammar and forms of life (Habermas, 1985).

