How do waterscape projects combine landscape design and natural processes to create dialogues that engage both culture and nature?

The case of the Boston park system and the Solar city

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> harmful urban infrastructure

> new strategies concerning the management and design of urban infrastructure systems and landscapes

landscape architecture: reconstruction and development of urban infrastructure systems

> a combination of the built and the natural

> new logics towards the cultivation of infrastructural landscapes as a base of sustainable urban and regional form
> a systemic approach to urban ecosystem by introducing a water-urbanism

waterscapes

> develop a way to combine the processes of nature and the aesthetic qualities of water in order to create urban spaces that bring people together in embracing the nature and culture of a place

> move towards a sustainable relation assuring the stability of urban ecosystems

> a combination between natural water and aesthetic creations in order to achieve urban ecological waterscapes
The Back Bay Fens

> Frederick Law Olmsted

> location: Back Bay Fens
    Boston
    United States of America

> year: 1890

> type of project: system of parks and parkways to connect the city of Boston with link to the Muddy River valley between Back Bay and Jamaica Pond

> aim: implementation of a new vision of urban form - a naturalistic urban landscape

> benefit the health of the city: improvements in water supply, water treatment and sewerage increasing their comfort and safety
Characteristics

- A basin with a tidal gate in order to keep water permanently in the area.

- Conduits carrying the ordinary rate of flow and planning the Fens to handle the overflow during freshets in order to make the streams bypass the Fens.

- Make gradually shelving banks and construct wide islands slightly above the usual water level in order to create a soft vegetated edge around the basin. (Provide adequate space to hold the floodwaters and have room left for natural growth, protect the natural shoreline from erosion by surf during storms.)
Urban water: resource or risks?
The Solar City

- Norman Foster
- Richard Rogers
- Thomas Herzog

- location: Danube - Linz, Austria
- year: 1992
- type of project: solar village for 1300 households
- aim: promote low cost building methods internationally
Characteristics

> transform the water meadows to a nature conservation area

> control rainwater: system of channels, basins, ponds and streams

> upgrade groundwater and create permanent and temporary wet areas

> establish a variety of recreation areas (playgrounds, gardens, meeting places, bathing lake, allotments, sports center)
Urban water: resource or risks?
Waterscapes: designed urban landscapes working as artificial ecologies

- natural elements that penetrate the city (rivers, lacks or the sea)
- constructed elements (artificial creations)

Water resources

- include aesthetics and engineering in design and planning (both at macro and micro level)
- contribute sustainability
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